

February 27, 2023

Memo: Masonic Cancer Support for Empowering MN's Cancer Registry bill - HF1329 (Carroll)

Minnesota State Legislature,

Part of our mission as an NCI-funded Comprehensive Cancer Center is to understand the burden of cancer within our catchment area, defined as the state of Minnesota. The availability of data from the Minnesota Cancer Reporting System (MCRS) is essential for us to meet this mission. We use the data on a regular basis to monitor trends in cancer incidence and mortality, to identify cancer health disparities in the Minnesota population, and to evaluate the impact of our research and clinical care. In addition, reporting of the Minnesota data to the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and subsequent availability through the CDC WONDER data analysis tool facilitates comparisons of the cancer burden in Minnesota to the U.S. overall and to other states. **Simply put, without MCRS we cannot fulfill our research and service mission that is essential to maintain NCI funding and designated cancer center status.** We note that our ability to understand the cancer burden in Minnesota would be enhanced with the inclusion of county level cancer data in the reports provided by MCRS. The availability of these data allows us to identify cancers that have a higher burden in Minnesota and allows us to focus our resources where we can have the most impact in improving health.

It is imperative that the MCRS have the authority to participate in the National Interstate Data Exchange Agreement (NIDEA), a condition of CDC funding that is essential for MCRS operations. The bill will greatly increase our ability to participate in NIH funding initiatives. In addition, it will provide increased opportunities for Minnesotans living with a cancer diagnosis to participate in survivorship research. We are fully supportive of the bill and urge your support for its passing.

Sincerely,



Douglas Yee, MD
Director, Masonic Cancer Center



Rebekah Pratt, PhD
Associate Co-Director
Community Outreach & Engagement



Jen Poynter, MPH, PhD
Associate Co-Director
Community Outreach & Engagement



Heather Nelson, MPH, PhD
Program Co-Leader
Screening, Prevention, Etiology & Cancer Survivorship