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Dear Dr. Bhattacharya,

As you embark on the important work of leading the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO), representing more than 50,000 physicians and other cancer care professionals, would welcome the opportunity to discuss ways we can work together to enhance the quality and efficiency of care for individuals facing cancer, including children. ASCO is dedicated to supporting and conducting research that leads to improved patient outcomes and is committed to ensuring that evidence-based practices for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer are available to all Americans.

Few agencies have more oversight and influence over cancer care than NIH. The Institute's programs and policies impact the entire cancer care continuum, from prevention and diagnostics through access to treatment and survivorship services. NIH plays a crucial role ensuring millions of Americans benefit from the research agency's leadership in national research efforts, funding of cancer centers and clinical trials, and supporting the development of new treatments and prevention strategies. As you and your team consider ongoing challenges and potential policy responses, we look forward to working with you to address particularly important issues to the cancer care community, including improved access to cancer trials for all patients, innovative trial designs, and rigorous but efficient evidence generation and review.

Thanks in part to the work of the NIH, there are an estimated 18 million cancer survivors in America, and that number is growing.¹ New treatments that can significantly improve both the length of and quality of life for patients with cancer means we are living in an era where many types of cancer may rightfully be considered chronic diseases. ASCO supports research that identifies long-term health complications from cancer or its treatment, discovering ways to mitigate complications and enhance quality of life for survivors.

I offer ASCO as a resource to you and your staff for expert knowledge in clinical cancer care, including ASCO's evidence-based guidelines for cancer prevention, detection and treatment, the latest and most advanced cancer research, and proven policies impacting both patients and the dedicated oncology professionals who care for them. Our staff will be in touch to arrange a time for ASCO leadership to meet with your team. We are committed to working together to improve cancer care,

¹ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/cancer-treatment-and-survivorship-facts-and-figures/2022-cancer-treatment-and-survivorship-fandf-acf.pdf>

research, and survival. For future resources, discussions, and collaborations, ASCO's primary contact is Shimere Sherwood at shimere.sherwood@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EPW".

Eric P. Winer, MD, FASCO
Association Chair of the Board