

October 15, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Secretary

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Establishing Liver Cancer Surveillance Recommendations for Americans with Cirrhosis and Chronic Hepatitis B

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write today, on Liver Cancer Awareness Day, in strong support of the liver cancer community and request that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) begin to consider increasing the national surveillance standard for liver cancer. Specifically, we urge the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) to consider prioritizing the development of liver cancer surveillance recommendations for the millions of Americans living with cirrhosis or chronic hepatitis B.

Innovators like Dr. Bharat Tewarie and his company, Helio Genomics, are leading the way in non-invasive early cancer detection. With these successes and the many developments from other leaders in the field, we can reliably detect liver cancer at an early-stage offering patients a 70% chance of survival. Despite this potential, the lack of a national surveillance standard is costing 30,000 American lives each year. The divide between what science can achieve and what our policies provide is not due to a lack of technological or medical progress. It is a gap in leadership. As part of your mission to end America's chronic disease epidemic, you can bridge this chasm and save thousands of lives.

The new 2026 American Cancer Society statistics underscore the urgency: liver cancer remains among the deadliest diagnoses in America, with over 42,000 new cases anticipated this year and a five-year survival rate of only 22%. These statistics also reveal that the liver cancer epidemic is escalating alongside rising rates of metabolic dysfunction, obesity, diabetes, and MASLD, the same underlying conditions you have targeted as the core of America's chronic disease crisis. Tragically, most patients are identified too late for curative treatments like surgery or transplantation. Early detection, however, changes everything, patients caught at a localized stage enjoy a 70% five-year survival rate. Despite these stark facts and clear clinical evidence, we still lack a national standard to safeguard those most at risk.

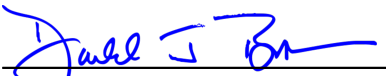
Your leadership provides a historic opportunity to confront this threat head-on within your broader mission to Make America Healthy Again. With a single directive from your office urging the USPSTF to make liver cancer surveillance a top priority, you can spark vital change across the entire healthcare system, establishing national surveillance standards, unlocking insurance coverage and ensuring earlier life-saving interventions to avert thousands of preventable deaths in the critical months and years ahead.

Importantly, targeted liver surveillance complements rather than duplicates multi-cancer early detection (MCED) approaches; it fills a critical gap for a high-incidence, high-mortality population that demands

focused action. A USPSTF recommendation would bring immediate and tangible benefit to the millions of Americans with cirrhosis and chronic hepatitis B, precisely the population most in need of targeted, life-saving surveillance. Such steps echo successful past advocacy efforts, including the expedited updates to colorectal cancer screening guidelines prompted by legislative and executive leadership.

Thank you for your commitment to preventive health and your determination to confront America's most pressing public health challenges.

Sincerely,



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress