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August 12, 2024

The Honorable Yadira Caraveo
1024 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Wilson
1436 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Caraveo and Congressman Wilson:

This year stomach cancer will claim the lives of nearly 27,000 Americans. Stomach cancer is a recalcitrant cancer, or deadly cancer, with a survival rate is just seven percent. In addition to better awareness and understanding of stomach cancer, and research funding that will lead to new treatment discoveries, more tools and strategies are needed that will allow for prevention and early detection. We thank you for bringing awareness to this need through your introduction of the “Stomach Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Act” (H.R. 9304). Debbie’s Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) is pleased to offer its strong support of the legislation.

DDF is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about stomach cancer, advancing funding for research, and providing education and support internationally to patients, families, and caregivers. DDF seeks as its ultimate goal to make the cure for stomach cancer a reality.

DDF first began its advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill in 2013, and on February 25, 2025, DDF advocates will be on Capitol Hill for the organization’s 13th Annual Advocacy Day where we will continue our advocacy for research funding, early detection and awareness. Our advocates were grateful to have visited your offices when they were in Washington, D.C. earlier this year, and DDF looks forward to working with you to promote H.R. 9304 this year, including during November Stomach Cancer Awareness Month. We are also eager to collaborate with you on the bill’s reintroduction in the 119th Congress, with the aim that we can include your bill among our advocacy priorities when DDF advocates convene on Capitol Hill next year.

When DDF first started advocating for stomach cancer on Capitol Hill, there as very little awareness about this cancer, and research dollars were scarce. Over the years, stomach cancer has been incorporated into the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program and congressional report language led to the creation in 2021 of the Program on the Origins of Gastroesophageal Cancers at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). This spring, the NCI held a Think Tank on Advancing Gastric Cancer Prevention with a focus on testing and treating for *Helicobacter pylori*, a leading risk factor for stomach cancer. We are excited about the momentum behind stomach cancer research, prevention and early detection and the added urgency your legislation brings to this topic.

Thank you again for your tremendous leadership. I hope you will consider joining DDF for a celebration of advocacy in Washington, DC on February 25. Camille Bonta, DDF policy and advocacy advisor, can be reached at cbonta@summithealthconsulting.com or (202) 320-3658 with questions and for future collaboration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Eidelman, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer