December 1, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S. 2813, the National Prostate Cancer Council Act

Dear Senator Boxer and Senator Sessions:

I write on behalf of the American Urological Association (AUA) to thank you for introducing S. 2813, the National Prostate Cancer Council Act which would establish the National Prostate Cancer Council for improved screening and early detection tools. The bill would bring together federal agencies, medical and scientific experts, advocacy organizations, and cancer survivors to create a national plan to improve how prostate cancer is detected, diagnosed, and treated.

The AUA represents more than 20,000 urologists and urological professionals who have been transforming and improving urological care for over 100 years. Our mission is to promote the highest standards of urological clinical care through education, research and the formulation of health care policy.

The AUA strongly supports your legislation, which is aimed at developing and implementing a national strategy for the accelerated creation, advancement, and testing of diagnostic tools through the National Prostate Cancer Council. S. 2813 is well-aligned with the AUA’s goals of improving prostate cancer screening and early detection.

Prostate cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among men in the United States and a significant health care problem due to its high incidence. It is estimated that in the U.S., there will be more than 230,000 new cases and 29,000 deaths from prostate cancer in 2014. Although one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, the odds increase to one in five if they are African American, and one in three if they have a family history.

Early detection strategies are crucial to saving the lives of these men, and ongoing research can improve prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment. We thank you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

William W. Bohnert, MD, FACS
President