



Physicians Caring for Texans

**Senate Finance Committee  
Written Testimony  
Texas Medical Association  
January 30, 2023**

Chairwoman Huffman and members of the Finance Committee, the Texas Medical Association, representing more than 57,000 physician and medical student members across the state, appreciates the opportunity to submit written comments in support of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). We urge Senate allocation of appropriated funds to sustain our state's momentum in groundbreaking cancer research, prevention, and treatment.

Not only has CPRIT saved countless Texans' lives since its inception in 2010, but its work continues to both save and earn Texas billions of dollars every year. A recent report by the Perryman Group estimated the cost of treating cancer and the associated morbidity and mortality (serious illness and death) to be \$51 billion in 2022. Sick days and job losses due to cancer resulted in an annual productivity loss of \$138.4 billion.<sup>1</sup> However, CPRIT operations, prevention, screening, and research programs have helped ameliorate this impact, generating \$21.8 billion in output and downstream economic benefits last year. CPRIT also generated business activity that totaled \$1.2 billion for the state and \$494.4 million for local governments in 2022.<sup>1</sup> Overall, for every dollar invested through CPRIT in 2022, Texas got back more than \$334 in returns from treatment cost savings, economic activity, real gross product output, income, sales, and tax receipts.<sup>1</sup>

CPRIT also has put Texas on the world stage in cancer research and has brought some of the most brilliant minds to our state, attracting 285 leading cancer research scientists and their labs to Texas, as well as recruiting 16 companies. CPRIT scholar James Allison, PhD, who was recruited to MD Anderson Cancer Center as part of a \$10 million CPRIT grant in 2011, was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. In 2022 alone, CPRIT-funded research projects have produced more than 1,150 publications, 53 patent filings and applications, and more than 251 clinical trials with over 40,000 patients. CPRIT grants for screening and education have provided 8.18 million prevention services in all Texas counties, improving access to lifesaving cancer screening for some of our state's most vulnerable populations.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond the economic benefits and prominent recognition of CPRIT, no dollar amount can be placed on the parents, grandparents, children, and cherished family members who get to spend just one more day with their loved ones while fighting cancer. TMA applauds the Texas Legislature for continuing to make the fight against cancer a statewide priority, and we urge the

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<sup>1</sup> The Perryman Group. An Economic Assessment of the Cost of Cancer in Texas and the Benefits of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and its Programs: 2022 Update. 2022.  
<https://www.cprit.state.tx.us/media/2901/perryman-cprit-impact-12-09-2022.pdf>.

state to continue gaining momentum in this work. Texas physicians care for our patients and their families and want only the best for them. CPRIT brings the best in cancer care, prevention, and treatment directly to Texas. Please provide for CPRIT's continued funding, and thank you for the opportunity to comment. For further questions, please contact Matt Dowling, Director, TMA Public Affairs, at [matt.dowling@texmed.org](mailto:matt.dowling@texmed.org), or Christina Ly, Associate Vice President, TMA Public Health, at [christina.ly@texmed.org](mailto:christina.ly@texmed.org).