

July 5, 2017

Carolyn Choate

Dear Carolyn:

Thank you for writing to me. Over the past two years, I have heard from many Americans about cancer, its dire consequences, and the hopeful prospect of ending cancer as we know it. It's a subject that is personal for me, but it's also personal for nearly every American, and millions of people around the world. We all know someone who has had cancer, or is fighting to beat it.

Through the Biden Cancer Initiative, I look forward to working with you and individuals and organizations around the globe to inject a sense of urgency and change the way we do business in cancer research and development, and in providing cancer care. The Initiative will focus on convening to develop and drive implementation of solutions to accelerate progress in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, research and care, and to reduce disparities in cancer outcomes.

When President Kennedy described sending humankind to the moon—he talked about the commitment the nation was “unwilling to postpone.” In our fight against cancer, we must be unwilling to postpone.

This is our moonshot. I know that we can help solidify a genuine global commitment to end cancer as we know it today, inspire a new generation of scientists to pursue new discoveries, and eclipse the bounds of human endeavor. That is the history of the journey of this country. If there's one word that defines who we are as Americans, it's “possibility.” These are the moments when we show up.

Thank you for showing up, and for your work with Kayak River of Life to raise awareness and funding for the fight against this awful disease. I look forward to working alongside you to continue to make a difference against this disease.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.