



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Greetings:

As Governor of Texas, it is my honor to welcome you to the 2023 North Texas Prostate Cancer Coalition Symposium hosted by UT Southwestern.

Tragically, families across the state and nation lose husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers to prostate cancer each year. Over the course of their lifetime, 1 in 8 American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, which constitutes 20 percent of all cancer diagnoses among men. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for Texas men, and researchers predict that prostate cancer will claim the lives of more than 17,000 Texans this year.

This disease, though misunderstood and infrequently discussed, carries with it profound ramifications for men, their families, and their communities. Its incidence is comparable to that of breast cancer, but there exists an enormous disparity between these illnesses in terms of public awareness.

Thankfully, prostate cancer is a curable illness—especially if detected in its early stages. Although such factors as age, health, family history, and exposure to harmful chemicals can correlate with prostate cancer diagnoses, it is ultimately a disease that can affect any man. In some cases, patients experience pronounced symptoms at the disease's onset, but frequently, patients with prostate cancer present no initial symptoms whatsoever.

With every moment that passes, the disease becomes more severe and more threatening. As a consequence, education and regular screenings are of the utmost importance in order to catch the disease at the earliest possible stage. If each man familiarizes himself with prostate cancer and tests himself regularly, he can pave the way for a happier, healthier tomorrow and potentially spare his loved ones the pain of loss.

In Texas, we know that it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we rise above them, and to this end, the North Texas Prostate Cancer Coalition (NTxPCC) provides patients, survivors, and family members vital information and connects them with all manner of resources.

The battle against prostate cancer is waged on many fronts, and the NTxPCC ensures that families are aware of the latest developments in diagnosis, treatment, and genomics. The community-minded group, moreover, amplifies the voices of affected patients and families, bolsters equality in health care, and galvanizes public support in Texas and beyond. It is essential that every man take a proactive role in his health and engage in open, ongoing dialogue with his care provider. By so doing, we can draw nearer to a better, brighter future in which prostate cancer is consigned to the past.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in extending best wishes for a memorable, informative conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor