



A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madame Speaker and Mr. Leader:

The undersigned cancer organizations urge you to include in the final stimulus package (HR. 1) assistance for uninsured Americans to purchase COBRA coverage. Our organizations, representing cancer patients, physicians, and researchers, observe every day the impact of loss of health insurance on cancer survivors. COBRA payment assistance will help cancer patients gain access to necessary cancer care.

A report released recently by the American Cancer Society and Kaiser Family Foundation describes the gaps in insurance coverage that confront insured Americans who have cancer, and among the problems identified was the high cost of COBRA coverage. Paying for COBRA is a very heavy burden for those with low incomes. Cancer survivors often cannot pay for COBRA coverage, as they find themselves with reduced incomes and depleted assets as a result of their cancer diagnosis.

COBRA payment assistance meets the standards for inclusion in the stimulus package, because access to health insurance for cancer patients will mean utilization of health care services to help them in their battle against cancer.

Contact: 2446 39th Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20007

Phone: 202-333-4041 • Fax: 202-333-4081 • www.cancerleadership.org

We urge you to include the most generous possible COBRA payment assistance in the stimulus package.

Sincerely,

Cancer Leadership Council

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Lymphoma Research Foundation
American Psychosocial Oncology Society	National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network	National Lung Cancer Partnership
Breast Cancer Network of Strength	National Patient Advocate Foundation
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition	Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy	Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups	Prevent Cancer Foundation
Fertile Hope	Sarcoma Foundation of America
Lance Armstrong Foundation	Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	The Wellness Community

cc: The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Minority Whip
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Thad Cochran

The Honorable Charles Grassley
The Honorable David Obey
The Honorable Charles Rangel
The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
The Honorable Dave Camp