



**American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network**  
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March 19, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Representative Boehner:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, has reviewed the health reform legislation before the House of Representatives, H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as passed by the Senate, and the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 4872, as reported. After analyzing the legislation specifically through the eyes of cancer patients, survivors and their families, we believe its provisions will make far-reaching improvements to the nation's health care system that will benefit millions of Americans.

The legislation will improve access to health care by ensuring the availability of adequate and affordable insurance coverage to nearly all Americans. Critical reforms will eliminate discrimination based on health status and preexisting conditions, and abolish arbitrary limits on annual and lifetime benefits, which have been so detrimental to cancer patients over the years.

In addition, through the expansion of Medicaid and the provision of tax subsidies to make private insurance more affordable, we believe the legislation will begin to correct the disparity that exists in both the prevention and treatment of cancer among low-income and minority families affected by cancer.

The bills will also improve prevention and early detection of cancer by requiring all insurance plans to provide first dollar coverage for essential evidence-based preventive measures. We know that 60 percent of all cancer deaths can be prevented through timely cancer screening, better diet and exercise, and tobacco cessation. The legislation provides substantial resources to community-based and clinical preventive actions that will ultimately lead to a healthier population across the board.

The legislation includes quality care measures and payment reforms that will place new emphasis on relieving patient pain and suffering through delivery of high quality, integrated care. In addition it will open access to life-saving clinical trials by requiring commercial insurance coverage for routine patient care costs for those participating in such research studies.

Clearly, the road to health reform has been long and difficult, and the legislation is not perfect. Yet, these critical provisions have the potential to make a significant contribution in the fight against

cancer. Improvements in access to quality, affordable care, if properly implemented, could help lower cancer incidence and mortality to a degree that has never before been achieved in the battle against cancer.

We urge passage of the legislation, and stand ready to work with you in a bipartisan way to both implement the plan and to resolve problems as they arise so that in the future all cancer patients, their families and survivors have access to available, affordable and adequate coverage.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Youle  
Chair, Board of Directors



Molly Daniels  
Interim President