

# CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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

October 27, 2009

The Honorable Mary Landrieu  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act (S. 1773), important legislation that would encourage cancer care planning and the coordination of cancer care. As organizations representing cancer patients, physicians, and researchers, we are committed to improvement of cancer care, and we applaud your efforts to support patient access to cancer care plans.

Cancer patients begin a difficult journey when they learn their diagnosis, a journey that is easier if they have a care plan that details all elements of their treatment and symptom management. Those who are provided care plans at the beginning and end of their treatment report that these plans empower them by providing them critical information about their cancer and treatment, assisting them in making difficult treatment decisions, and guiding them through a complicated health care system. The advantages of care planning and coordination are clear for the individual patient, and there will be benefits for the entire system if care is better coordinated and unnecessary or ineffective care is avoided.

The Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act accomplishes the goals of cancer care planning and coordination by establishing a Medicare benefit for care planning and authorizing programs to pilot care planning and coordination models,

with a special emphasis on underserved populations. We commend you for advancing legislation to improve cancer care and pledge to work with you to see care plans become an essential element of cancer care delivery.

Sincerely,

## **Cancer Leadership Council**

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network  
Breast Cancer Network of Strength  
Cancer Care  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups  
Lance Armstrong Foundation  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Lung Cancer Partnership  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
North American Brain Tumor Coalition  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance  
Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network  
The Wellness Community