



CHECKLIST FOR THE SENATE

✓ 56 colleagues in the Senate

✓ 326 members of the House

✓ 9 million cancer survivors

Dear Senators Daschle and Lott: How Much More Support Do You Need?

The undersigned organizations representing cancer interests are sending a strong message of disappointment to the Senate for critical omissions in the Senate Finance Committee's Medicare legislation. This package contains more than \$40 billion in so-called provider give-backs and virtually nothing in the way of patient benefits.

The Access to Cancer Therapies Act (S. 913) would provide Medicare coverage for all oral anti-cancer drugs. S. 913 enjoys broad bipartisan support, with 56 cosponsors in the Senate and 326 cosponsors for the corresponding bill in the House (H.R. 1624). In addition, a national poll found that 9 in 10 Americans believe Medicare should pay for all medically approved cancer therapies, and 4 out of 5 Americans want legislation requiring Medicare coverage of all oral anti-cancer drugs to be passed in this Congress.*

Cancer strikes one in every two Americans and kills one in every three. The Senate can demonstrate its leadership by providing coverage of life-saving

drugs like tamoxifen for breast cancer and other drugs for cancers of the blood, lungs, and prostate. There can be no refuge on this issue for Senators by characterizing increases in provider payments as benefits for patients.

We call on you and the entire Congress to remedy the benefit gap glaring from the Finance Committee package and to include the Access to Cancer Therapies Act in any Medicare legislation that emerges from the 107th Congress.

*Harris Poll, March 2002



The following groups also support the Access to Cancer Therapies Act: American Cancer Society • American Society of Clinical Oncology • Cancer Care • Cancer Research Foundation of America • The Children's Cause, Inc. • Coalition of National Cancer Cooperative Groups, Inc. • Colorectal Cancer Network • Foundation for the Children's Oncology Group • International Myeloma Foundation • Kidney Cancer Association • Lymphoma Research Foundation • Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation • North American Brain Tumor Coalition • Ovarian Cancer National Alliance • Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation • Us Too! International, Inc. • The Wellness Community • Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization