



May 16, 2008

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative DeLauro:

On behalf of the volunteers and supporters of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action NetworkSM (ACS CAN), the partner advocacy organization of the American Cancer Society, we would like to express our appreciation for your continued leadership in addressing the needs of women undergoing treatment for breast cancer. H.R. 758, Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2007, will ensure that women undergoing mastectomies and lymph node dissections for the treatment of breast cancer will receive coverage for an adequate hospital stay based upon an informed choice determined between the woman and her doctor.

This year 182,460 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed. In support of these women who must deal with tremendous medical and emotional challenges to overcome this disease, we believe it is critical that physicians and patients have the ability to freely discuss and decide together what treatment options are medically necessary and appropriate, including an adequate hospital stay. To that end, ACS CAN opposes any effort on the part of a health plan or health insurance organization that seeks to limit patient access to available treatments deemed medically necessary by a physician.

ACS CAN joins you in your dedication to reducing cancer mortality rates and improving treatment by confronting barriers to quality cancer care. We recognize that significant health disparities still exist with regard to access to breast cancer screening and early detection, as well as to quality breast cancer treatment. Accordingly, we would ask that you support full funding of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program which now serves fewer than one in five eligible women who lack insurance coverage for mammogram screenings.

Again, we commend you for your many efforts in the fight against cancer, and for your continued concern about optimizing the quality of life for women living with breast cancer. Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Smith
President