



Oncology Nursing Society

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March 3, 2008

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

Dear Representative DeLauro:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) – the largest professional oncology group in the United States, composed of more than 35,000 nurses and other health professionals dedicated to ensuring access to quality care for people with cancer – we are writing to thank you for your leadership in reintroducing the “Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act” (HR 758). ONS believes that your legislation will work to improve the quality of care for women undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

As oncology nurses, every day we see the pain and suffering caused by cancer, and we know all too well the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. Unfortunately, too many times, people with cancer also face the challenge of a health care plan and a health care system that add additional pressures and frustrations on top of an already strained situation. Specifically, ONS supports your legislation, because it helps ensure that decisions pertaining to treatment for breast cancer are made by patients in consultation with their cancer care providers, not by health plans or insurers.

Please know that we stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to advance policies - such as HR 758 - that will reduce and prevent suffering from cancer. Should you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance to you and your staff, please feel free to contact us, or our Washington Representatives, Ilisa Halpern Paul (202/230-5145, Ilisa.paul@dbr.com) and Jeremy Scott (202/230-5197, Jeremy.scott@dbr.com).

Sincerely,

Georgia M. Decker, MS, RN, CS-ANP, AOCN®
President

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