



January 23, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear President Obama, Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader Boehner:

Of the more than 560,000 people in America who die from cancer every year, 300,000 suffer and lose their lives because they lack access to appropriate preventive care and treatment. No one should have to fight for the care they need while also fighting for their life.

The American Cancer Society, the world's largest voluntary health organization, has been working for decades to improve access to health care nationwide. Its advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), has been the leading voice of patients and their families in the health care debate, working with lawmakers from both parties to enact meaningful reform.

Today the Society's National Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution calling on you and your colleagues – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – to work together to expeditiously enact legislation that will provide all Americans with improved access to quality, affordable care; enhanced disease prevention and wellness services; and improved quality of life for those who have experienced cancer.

Cancer patients know too well that the current health care system fails those who need it most. A recent poll conducted for ACS CAN found that in the prior year, nearly one-third of cancer patients in current treatment cut pills or skipped doses of medicine, nearly one-quarter delayed a recommended cancer screening or treatment, and one-fifth failed to fill a prescription because of high health care costs.

Americans are suffering and dying needlessly because they lack access to quality, affordable health care. People with cancer and other life-threatening chronic diseases cannot wait for critical improvements to the health care system. They need you to work together to take action now, not later, on meaningful health care reform.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of George W. P. Atkins in black ink.

George W. P. Atkins
Chair, National Board of Directors

Handwritten signature of Alan G. Thorson, MD, FACS in black ink.

Alan G. Thorson, MD, FACS
President

Handwritten signature of John R. Seffrin in black ink.

John R. Seffrin, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 23, 2010**

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Inc. (the “Society”) adopted a resolution urging progress toward achieving the Society’s 2015 goals, including developing a strategic plan of action to accelerate the decline in cancer mortality rates, which became the Society’s Access to Care initiative; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer every year and 300,000 suffer and die needlessly because they lack access to appropriate preventive care and treatment of their disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Inc. hereby requests that the President and every Democrat, Republican and Independent in the United States Congress work together to expeditiously enact meaningful health care reform legislation that will provide all Americans with improved access to quality, affordable care; enhanced prevention and wellness services; and improved quality of life for those who have experienced cancer.