

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
455 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
VIA FAX: 202.228.6321

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
VIA FAX: 202.228.1229

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
VIA FAX: 202.228.6362

**Re: Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act of 2009 (S. 488)**

Dear Senators Brown, Specter and Whitehouse:

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance supports the "Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act of 2009" (S. 488), which would require group health plans and health insurance providers to cover routine patient care costs for individuals enrolled in clinical trials.

Clinical trials help scientists and doctors deliver new scientific discoveries to patients' bedsides and determine which treatments are effective and safe. Clinical trials are a lifeline for people with life-threatening illnesses like cancer. Each year, thousands of people gain access to the highest-quality cancer care and receive new treatments before they are widely available by participating in a clinical trial. Millions more benefit from the findings. Yet, while more than 1.4 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer each year, fewer than 5 percent will participate in an approved clinical trial. The "Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act of 2009" will remove a large barrier to patient participation and provide access to many more people. Today, almost half of the states require insurance companies to cover routine care provided as part of a clinical trial. The Komen Advocacy Alliance believes the federal government and other state governments should follow suit.

Thank you for introducing this legislation and for your history of strong support for cancer research and access to cancer care.

Sincerely,

Hala Modellmog  
President & CEO  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure

Chair, Board of Directors  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance

*Susan G. Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Thanks to events like the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure®, Komen has invested more than \$1.3 billion to fulfill its promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. To continue this progress, Komen for the Cure has pledged to invest another \$2 billion in the next ten years.*

*The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance is the voice for over 2.5 million breast cancers survivors and the people who love them. Our mission is to translate the Komen promise to end breast cancer forever into evidence-based government action to discover and deliver the cures for cancer.*