

June 8, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell,
Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

We write on behalf of breast cancer patients, survivors and advocates across the country to request that you restore the six-month extension of the enhanced federal Medicaid match, which was stricken from the Tax Extender bill, H.R. 4213. Without the extension, states must make further cuts to vital state services, including life-saving breast cancer screening and treatment.

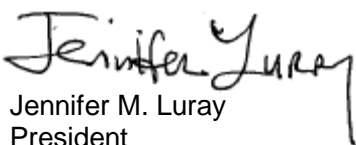
According to the National Coalition of State Legislators (NCSL), thirty states have proposed or approved state budgets for FY2011 that assume Congress would approve a six-month Medicaid enhancement. California, for example, will likely have to eliminate access to breast cancer screening and diagnostic services for hundreds of thousands of women. South Carolina, which already cut \$1 million in breast cancer screening funding, would be forced to cut another \$1 million, meaning a total of 8,000 underserved women will lose access to affordable breast cancer screening. Women in other states face similar fates.

Without the enhanced Medicaid funding, women will lose access to vital cancer screening services like mammography and diagnostic services. Most of these otherwise-eligible women will not get regular screenings, leading to later diagnoses, more advanced cancers, and lower chances of survival — and leading to higher expenses for federal and state budgets down the road. Women may also lose access to affordable breast cancer treatment services like surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

For more than a year, our Affiliates across the country have been working to protect state breast cancer screening programs from cuts. We have also been working with their state officials to ensure that states are doing their part. The Medicaid extension is critical to these efforts. Our network of grassroots advocates are reaching out to their Members of Congress, urging support for Medicaid extension.

We understand the difficult budget environment you face today — but in this case women's lives are at literally at stake.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Luray
President