

March 31, 2008

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
United States Senate
328 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Olympia Snowe
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Landrieu and Snowe:


The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance writes to offer its support for the “Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2009” (S. 688), legislation you introduced that would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissections for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

Decisions concerning a patient’s care, including the length of a hospital stay subsequent to mastectomy, lumpectomy or lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer, should be made jointly by the patient and her doctor — not by her insurance company. We are committed to ensuring all Americans have access to affordable, high-quality health care, and we encourage patients to talk with their doctors about all treatment decisions, including the length of any hospital stay.

The Komen 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 government action to discover and deliver the cures for cancer. Susan G. Komen for the Cure — together with our network of 122 domestic Affiliates — is the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world, investing more than \$1.3 billion since 1982, and pledging another \$2 billion over the next decade. Our passionate grassroots activists are mobilized in nearly every state across the country to support public policies that advance the fight against cancer.

Cancer claims more than 560,000 lives each year, and inflicts incalculable physical pain and emotional distress on cancer patients and their families. We look forward to continuing our work with you in the 111th Congress to enact public polices that will help end suffering and death from cancer. Thank you for introducing this legislation and for your strong history of support for women’s health initiatives.

Sincerely,



Nancy G. Brinker
Founding Chair, Susan G. Komen for the Cure
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 nonpartisan 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.