

February 24, 2010

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Mr. Boehner, Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

We are writing on behalf of breast cancer patients, survivors and advocates across the country to request an extension for at least six months of the enhanced Medicaid match that was included in the 2009 stimulus bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This extension is vital for the women who depend on Medicaid and other safety net programs, which may end up on the chopping block as state policymakers struggle to balance their budgets.

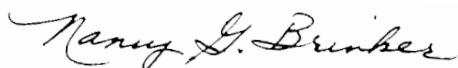
Employers have shed more than 8 million jobs since the economic downturn began in December 2007. As people without work and without insurance wait patiently for the recovery, they are increasingly turning to safety net programs like Medicaid and the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program for help. Medicaid, for one, has seen the fastest rate of growth in years, placing extraordinary strains on already strapped state budgets.

Extending Medicaid's enhanced federal match for six months will carry the benefit through the end of most states' fiscal years, and will help promote economic stability at the state and local level. One estimate found that each additional dollar in state Medicaid spending generates almost \$4 in additional business activity.

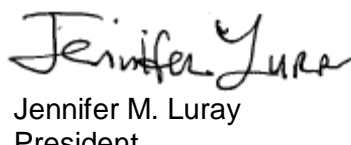
Most importantly, it will help states protect critical health care services like breast cancer screening for low-income, uninsured and underinsured women. If these programs are cut, many of the otherwise-eligible women will not get regular screenings, leading to later diagnoses, more advanced cancers, and lower chances of survival — and leading to higher expenses for federal and state budgets down the road.

We appreciate your consideration of our request to extend the enhanced Medicaid match rate for at least six months — and we look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure all breast cancer patients and survivors have access to affordable health care.

Sincerely,



Nancy G. Brinker  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure



Jennifer M. Luray  
President  
Komen Advocacy Alliance