

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Steve Israel
U.S. House of Representatives
2457 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sue Myrick
U.S. House of Representatives
230 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
1110 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act of 2009 (H.R. 716)

Dear Representatives Israel, Myrick and Capps:

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance supports the "Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act of 2009" (H.R. 716), 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, 24 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,



Martina A. Hone
President
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 a sister organization to Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, and is a voice for change on Capitol Hill, in state legislatures and on the campaign trail. With the help of nearly 200,000 Komen Champions and Komen's network of 122 domestic affiliates, we are aggressively seeking increased funding for research and greater access to screening and treatment. The Komen Advocacy Alliance engages policymakers and leaders at all levels of government to advocate for an increased investment in breast cancer research and greater access to breast health services.