

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® Advocacy Alliance urges you to include several critical items in the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.” By doing so, you will play a direct role in helping to reduce suffering and death from cancer.

First, we ask you to **support the \$10 billion provided in the Senate version of the bill for life-saving research at the National Institutes of Health.** Investing in biomedical research will stimulate the economy by infusing dollars into local communities and supporting researchers so they don't leave the field or go to other countries, thus helping maintain the U.S. as the global leader in scientific and technological innovation. It will also lead to ground-breaking medical treatments and discoveries that will help alleviate suffering and death from cancer.

Second, we ask you to **support a temporary increase in aid to state Medicaid programs to help states avoid painful cuts.** Cuts have already been proposed in many states. As a result, thousands of our nation's most underserved citizens are losing access to affordable health care, which includes breast and cervical cancer treatment for underserved women provided through Medicaid.

Third, we ask you to **support the \$3 billion for public health prevention and wellness programs** at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is included in the House version of the bill and would help the CDC support the influx of newly eligible women seeking breast and cervical cancer screening. The investment in prevention and wellness will save lives, and it will also create 2,000 jobs in communities across the country for badly needed doctors, nurses, counselors and other public health professionals.

Cancer costs the U.S. \$219 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity, and inflicts incalculable physical pain and emotional distress on cancer patients and their families. An increased investment in the fight against cancer will create jobs and contribute to the short-term stimulus the economy needs today, while building a foundation for a healthier more productive workforce in the future.

We thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Martina A. Hone
President
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance

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.