

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 2, 2009

## **Renew America's Commitment to Fighting Cancer and Finding Cures** *Cosponsor the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cancer ALERT Act*

Dear Colleague,

Since the War on Cancer was declared in 1971, we have amassed a wealth of knowledge about all aspects of the illness. Yet the cancer mortality rate adjusted for age is still extraordinarily high compared to mortality rates from other chronic diseases.

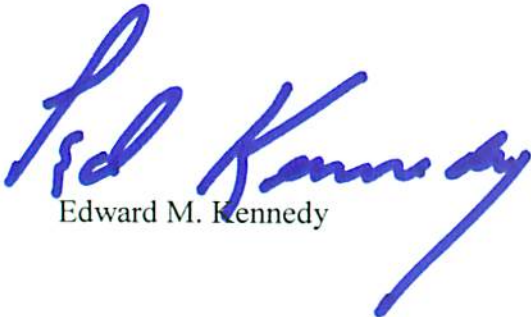
The impact of cancer on people's lives cannot, and should not, be underestimated. Cancer is soon expected to become the leading killer of Americans. Today, one out of two men and one out of three women will develop cancer in their lifetime. The future health of America calls for a renewed focus on cancer.

We recently introduced the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cancer ALERT (Access to Life Saving, Early Detection, Research and Treatment) Act, and we hope you will join us as a cosponsor. The bill deals with the entire continuum of cancer care. Prevention and early detection for those most at risk are emphasized through support for innovative initiatives and new technologies such as biomarkers, which detect early biochemical changes that indicate cancer may be starting. The bill strengthens cancer research, particularly through increased coordination among stakeholders on current and future projects. Increased enrollment in clinical research will be achieved by removing barriers to patients' participation in clinical trials. The bill also includes measures to improve services for cancer survivors, reduce the duplication of services, and enhance continuity of care. In addition, the bill increases access to care for underserved populations and reduces the burden of disease and the cost of health care for the nation.


We believe that Congress must act to ensure that the incidence of cancer declines and the survival rate increases. Identifying and removing the numerous obstacles that inhibit progress in cancer research and treatment is essential, and the bill has the support of numerous leading cancer groups, including those listed on the subsequent page.

If you have questions about the bill, please contact Caya Lewis with Senator Kennedy at 4-7675 or Cameron Krier with Senator Hutchison at 4-7641.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy



Kay Bailey Hutchison

**Organizations supporting S. 717, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cancer ALERT Act:**

**Alliance for Prostate Cancer Prevention  
American Academy of Cancer Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Breast Cancer Network of Strength®  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Dana-Farber /Partners Cancer Care  
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Intercultural Cancer Caucus  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Lance Armstrong Foundation  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
National Alliance of African American Prostate Cancer Advocates  
National Coalition for Cancer Research  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prostate Cancer Foundation and Melanoma Research Alliance  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance**