October 31, 2017

Senator Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Alexander and Murray:

On behalf of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), I write to express our support for your private and small group insurance market stabilization legislation introduced yesterday. ASCO applauds your bipartisan commitment to protect the health care exchanges that provide access to health care insurance for millions of people who have cancer or who are at risk for cancer. ASCO’s core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

By restoring cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments, this legislation takes a critical step to ensuring affordability for patients by mitigating uncertainty in the insurance market. One of ASCO’s core principles of health care reform is the continued coverage of essential health benefits such as cancer screening services. We are heartened that this legislation keeps these and patient protections such as pre-existing condition protections intact. While providing states flexibility to improve the value of insurance plans, this proposal aims to protect vulnerable populations such as cancer patients.

We encourage members of the Senate to sign on as co-sponsors of this legislation. Further, we call on Senate leadership to move on this proposal without delay. ASCO looks forward to continued work with Congress to promote better coverage and affordability provisions in the future for individuals with cancer. Passage of the Alexander-Murray compromise legislation is an important first step.

If you have any questions or would like assistance from ASCO on this or any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Schwartz at amanda.schwartz@asco.org or 571-483-1647.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
President, American Society of Clinical Oncology

cc: All Members of the US Senate