

Community Oncology Alliance

Dedicated to high quality, affordable, and accessible cancer care

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The Honorable Lois Capps
United States House of Representatives
1110 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Capps:

On behalf of the Community Oncology Alliance (COA), let me take this opportunity to thank you for your untiring dedication to improving cancer care. You are a real champion for Americans fighting this terrible disease, as well as for community cancer clinics, which provide treatment for 84% of the cancer patients in this country.

I am pleased to communicate that COA enthusiastically endorses the legislation you have introduced this year, the *Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act of 2007* (H.R. 1078), co-sponsored with Congressman Tom Davis. As a practicing medical oncologist in the community setting, I can attest first-hand to the importance of comprehensive treatment and care planning. Additionally, we applaud your efforts to conduct demonstration projects and to fund grants directed at programs to improve symptom management and palliative care. One of the hallmarks of community cancer care has been the compassion, comprehensive provision of care, and attention to symptom management. Unfortunately, changes to the Medicare Part B reimbursement system have significantly cut payment for the costs of providing these essential aspects of quality cancer care.

I would also like to thank you for endorsing the *Community Cancer Care Preservation Act of 2007* (H.R. 1190). This legislation, co-sponsored by your House colleagues Congressmen Artur Davis and Jim Ramstad, addresses critical problems associated with Medicare drug and services reimbursement. Unfortunately, we are hearing of mounting access to care issues from around the country due to continued Medicare reimbursement cuts.

These past two months have shown us that no one is immune to cancer. The good news is that the combined impact of earlier diagnosis, more targeted therapy, and widely accessible cancer care have resulted in more Americans surviving cancer. Ensuring a viable treatment delivery system and a concerted focus on survivorship should be paramount concerns at this time. Thank you again for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Frederick M. Schnell MD
President

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