



*25 Years of progress through prevention*

September 28, 2011

Dear Representatives,

The Prevent Cancer Foundation is a national, nonprofit organization with the mission of cancer prevention through research, education and advocacy.

We would like to convey our support for H.R. 1394 and S. 752, the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2011. We strongly support the goal of this legislation, to expand federal coordination regarding detection, treatment and education about lung cancer in what we consider a positive and proactive manner that could potentially help reduce the incidence of mortality in lung cancer.

The Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2011 would establish a comprehensive approach that requires coordination of federal health agencies, provides new resources and tools to health agencies, supports early detection and treatment, and creates programs to combat lung cancer in vulnerable populations including veterans, minorities, the poor and women. The Act calls for the coordination of three government departments, HHS, DOD and VA, to put together a comprehensive research plan addressing all aspects of lung cancer prevention, early detection and treatment, which we strongly support. The establishment of a Lung Cancer Early Detection Program aimed at providing access for early detection to low-income, uninsured, and underserved populations at risk for lung cancer is crucial because early detection is key in increasing the rate of survival.

Most people do not know that lung cancer takes more lives than all the next four leading causes of cancer deaths; colon cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and pancreatic cancer, combined. It will kill more than three times as many men as prostate cancer and nearly twice as many women as breast cancer. Despite a 15% chance at a 5-year survival rate, a high rate of late-stage diagnosis and subsequent ranking as the deadliest cancer, lung cancer receives proportionally less funding. Despite advances in science and medicine we will still lose over 157,000 Americans to lung cancer this year alone. In 2009 a NCI study discovered that "the value of life lost to lung cancer will exceed \$433,000,000,000 a year by 2020," but that just a 4% decline in lung cancer mortality would reduce that amount by more than half.

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The Prevent Cancer Foundation supports the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act because a comprehensive lung cancer research program and screening program needs to get started as quickly as possible. With your support, lives can be saved; costs can be cut and overall cancer mortality can and will be reduced.

We look forward to working with you towards the passage of the Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act of 2011.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hughes

Director, Policy and Advocacy

The Prevent Cancer Foundation