



August 15, 2008

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The Honorable Patrick Kennedy
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
440 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Granger and Senator Kennedy:

I am writing on behalf of the California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4) to express our support for your Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment legislation, H.R. 1738. The C4 is a nonprofit organization established to increase colorectal cancer screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality associated with the disease. The C4 mission is to save lives and reduce suffering from colorectal cancer in all Californians.

Colorectal cancer is a common and deadly disease, the third most common cancer and the third most common cause of cancer deaths in California. Both the numbers of colorectal cancers and the deaths from the disease can be reduced by screening for colorectal cancer in men and women over 50. Unfortunately, the majority of Californians over age 50 have not been screened for colorectal cancer. Californians are suffering and dying from this disease because they are not getting screened.

Key priorities of the C4 are to implement strategies to reduce disparities in colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment among underserved populations in California, and to advocate for colorectal cancer screening programs to serve uninsured and underinsured populations. The C4 endorses H.R.1738 because it will remove barriers and provide access to screenings for men and women who could otherwise not afford or obtain them. It also will ensure comprehensive cancer care for individuals screened and needing follow up services and treatment. Thousands of lives could be saved each year.

The C4 thanks you for your leadership in sponsoring this lifesaving legislation, and look forward to working with you to pass H.R. 1738.

Sincerely,

Daniel "Stony" Anderson, MD, FACP
President, California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)