

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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April 22, 2013

To: Chair Monnes-Anderson, Senate Committee on Health Care and Human Services
From: Jason Parks, Government Relations Director, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
RE: Support of House Concurrent Resolution 17

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (“ACS CAN”) is the advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society (the “Society”). The Society is a nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy, and service. The American Cancer Society is the largest voluntary health organization in the United States.

ACS CAN appreciates this opportunity to voice our support of House Concurrent Resolution 17 and the effort to make lung cancer awareness a public health priority.

In the US, lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer death among both men and women. Each year, more people die of lung cancer than of colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined.

HCR 17 provides statistics illustrating the devastating impact of lung cancer in 2012 on both our country and state. Below, I’d like to provide ACS CAN’s estimates for the toll this disease will take in 2013:

- Nationwide, 228,190 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed
- Nationwide, 159,480 deaths from lung cancer
- In Oregon, 2,860 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed
- In Oregon, 2,110 deaths from lung cancer
- Lung cancer will account for 14% of all new cancer diagnoses
- Lung cancer will account for about 27% or all cancer deaths

Overall, the chance that a man will develop lung cancer in his lifetime is about 1 in 13; for a woman, the risk is about 1 in 16. These numbers include both smokers and non-smokers. For smokers the risk is much higher, while for non-smokers the risk is lower.

Given these dramatic figures, ACS CAN encourages this committee to support HCR 17, and make combatting lung cancer a top priority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.