

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 29, 2007

The Honorable Mike Leavitt
Secretary
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

During November, which is Lung Cancer Awareness Month, we ask that you and the agencies you oversee make a commitment to increase funding for lung cancer research. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women in the United States. Lung cancer must be declared a public health priority and an action plan needs to be coordinated and put in place in order to reduce the lung cancer mortality rate by 50 percent by 2015.

The recently released study, "Annual Report to the Nation on the Status of Cancer, 1975-2004, Featuring Cancer in American Indians and Alaska Natives" shows overall cancer death rates continuing to decline. Lung cancer death rates in men follow this decline, but disturbingly, the death rate in women continues to increase.

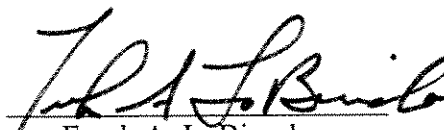
While overall advancements in cancer research, treatment and detection in recent years provide great hope, there is still much to do, especially in the field of lung cancer. The 5-year survival rates have risen significantly for breast, prostate and colon cancer, but unfortunately, the gains for lung cancer remain modest at best. Clearly, a coordinated and comprehensive research effort, like those used to tackle these other cancers, is needed to achieve significant increases in lung cancer survivability rates. One essential element of this is to assist smokers who want to quit.

With your assistance, the goal of reducing the lung cancer mortality rate by 50 percent by 2015 can become a reality. We look forward to working with you towards this goal.

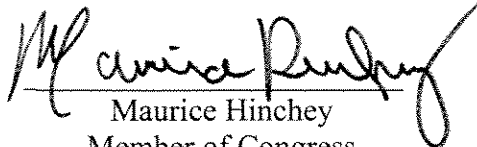
Sincerely,

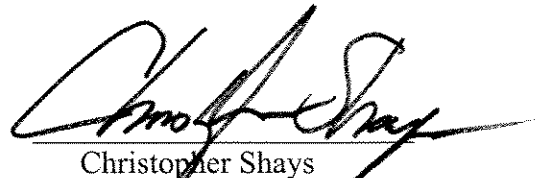


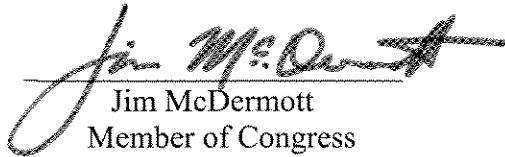
Lois Capps
Member of Congress

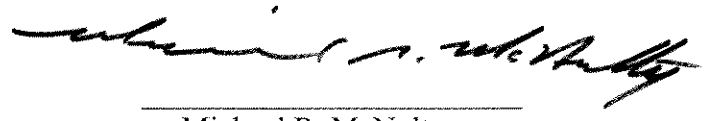



Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

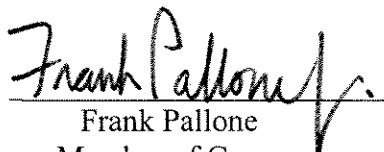

Christopher Shays
Member of Congress

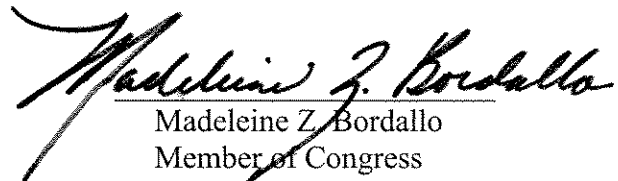

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress

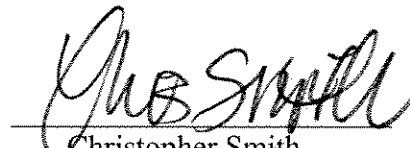

Betty Sutton
Member of Congress

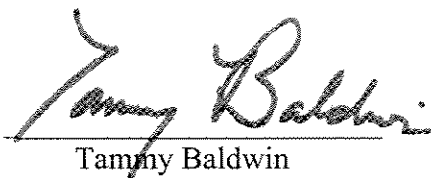

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

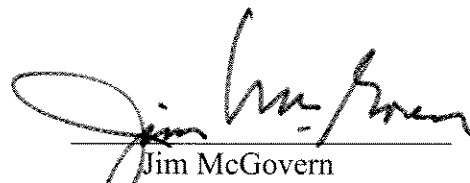

Frank Pallone
Member of Congress

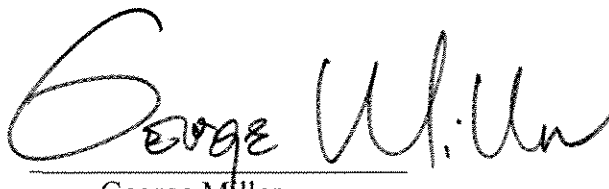

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

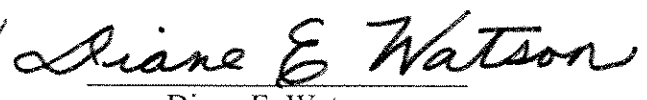

Henry Waxman
Member of Congress

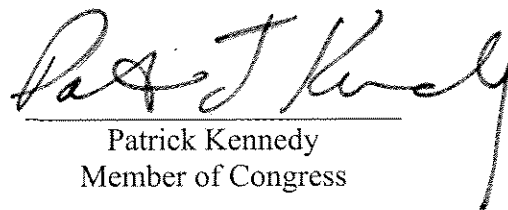

Christopher Smith
Member of Congress


Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress


Jim McGovern
Member of Congress


George Miller
Member of Congress


Diane E. Watson
Member of Congress


Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress