

leukemia[®]

society of america

September 17, 1999

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The Hon. Charles Norwood
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Norwood:

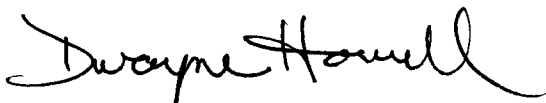
On behalf of the Leukemia Society of America and the more than 600,000 patients with leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma which we represent, I wish to express our strong support for H.R. 2723, the Managed Care Improvement Act of 1999. Specifically, the Society appreciates your commitment to guaranteeing coverage for the patient care costs associated with cancer clinical trials and ensuring individuals have access to appropriate specialty care.

As you know, clinical trials are the means by which new therapeutic options are tested and improvements over standard therapies achieved. Children with cancer are routinely referred to clinical trials for treatment. This has led to the dramatic improvement in cure rates for childhood leukemia over the last 30 years. Whereas only a handful of children with leukemia survived in 1960, today the cure rate is approximately 80 percent. The Leukemia Society believes that adults with cancer should have the same opportunity to participate in clinical trials and your legislation will facilitate that participation.

The Society also strongly supports a patient's right to access appropriate specialty care. This is critical for individuals with life-threatening illnesses. Your legislation would guarantee patients the right to see a specialist for his/her condition if there is no provider specializing in treatment of that condition available in the network. The Society believes this is a critical component of any health care reform bill and we applaud your efforts to guarantee patients have this right.

The Leukemia Society thanks you for your efforts and we encourage your continued support for these important provisions during House deliberations of health care reform legislation. If the Society may be of any assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact Jean Ard, Vice President, Governmental & Legislative Affairs at (202) 973-2864.

Sincerely,



Dwayne Howell
President & CEO

—▼
Fighting:
leukemia
lymphoma
Hodgkin's disease
myeloma

Insure a cure - remember the Leukemia Society in your will