

## *Cancer Care in Crisis*

How to contact your members of Congress — and what to say

*How to contact your members in the House of Representatives and the Senate:*

1. The phone numbers for the Washington, DC and local offices of your Representative and two Senators are in the *Legislative Action Center* on the COA website. Simply enter your zip code and you can find all contact information.
2. If you want to send an email, you can also do that in the *Legislative Action Center*.
3. It is always best to call. Chances are you will not be able to speak to your Representative or Senator. Ask for their health legislative assistant.
4. Be polite and positive — you are asking for the help of your Representative and two Senators.

*Here is what to say when you call:*

- *Cancer Care is in Crisis!* We need Congress to help fix cancer care; not break it further.
- The government has severely cut Medicare payments for cancer care. Now, new payment cuts will go into effect 2010 that will be drastic. For example, payments for the administration of life-saving cancer drugs will be cut by up to 38%. Payments will also be cut for imaging tests — such as PET and CAT scans — and radiation treatment.
- Community oncology practices, which treat over 80% of Americans with cancer, need help — and certainly, cannot absorb any more cuts by Medicare. Some clinics have already closed; others will do so. These new payment cuts will cause a major crisis in cancer care.
- The United States has the best cancer care in the world as judged by increased survival and quality of life for people with cancer. But cancer care is in crisis and health care reform needs to address this national problem.
- *Please Help Stop the Cuts to Cancer Care!* Reach out to CMS, which administers Medicare, and the White House to stop the cuts to cancer care.