



Research ■ Policy ■ Awareness

April 19, 2006

The Honorable Michael Enzi, Chairman
The Honorable Ted Kennedy, Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

Delivered via fax

Dear Senator Enzi and Senator Kennedy,

On behalf of the 150,000-plus Americans who will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2006, we are writing to strongly oppose the latest version of S. 1995, the Health Insurance Market Modernization and Affordability Act of 2005.

Colorectal cancer screening is a success story:

- **Screening saves lives.** Screening saves lives in two ways: by diagnosing cancer early and by preventing cancer from occurring in the first place. When diagnosed in its earliest stages, cure rates are over 90%. Once colorectal cancer has spread, cure rates drop dramatically.
- **Screening is cost effective.** The estimated cost of colon cancer screening is well within the benchmark figure of \$40,000 per year of life saved, which is considered by the government to be cost-effective.

C3 advocates are working with organizations such as the American Cancer Society and the National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance to ensure coverage of screening through state-level legislation mandating coverage for screening. These efforts are paying off – **the colorectal cancer death rate is dropping as screening rates increase.**

S.1955 would gut the work of our advocates at the state level. S.1955 would erase guaranteed access to screening for colorectal cancer, along with other critical treatment options guaranteed at the state level.

We realize that S1955 might help reduce the cost of health insurance for small businesses. However, because colorectal cancer is shown to be both cost-effective and life-saving, this short-term savings will result in a long-term loss of life and ultimate increase in medical costs.

As S.1955 continues its path through the Senate, we urge you to consider the ultimate impact of this legislation on our country.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nancy Roach'.

Nancy Roach
President and Chair, Board of Directors