Greetings.

The Congress is in session this weekend and our issue is getting the attention of the leadership, key members, and their staffs, as well as CMS and The White House.

This is due to the incredible, positive, data driven, energized grass roots efforts by so many of you across the nation.

We have heard lots of positive information about our issue - even as conveyed directly to our lobbyists, former members of Congress, Harold Ford and Bob Livingston.

Now we must keep up this effort. We must press on. We must stay positive. Many key members and leadership are helping on the issues impacting cancer care. The grass roots effort coupled with the professional lobbying in Washington is making a difference. Throughout this weekend we are in touch with these key members - including face to face encounters.

Beginning Monday morning - please - everyone - in every state and in every Congressional district do the following:

1. Fax the attached 3 page document to your members of The House and Senate - both their DC office and their District office(s). You can get their fax numbers through the Legislative Action Center on the COA web site (www.communityoncology.org). Please attach a brief cover letter explaining your concerns for community cancer care and patient access to that care. This entire process should take less than 15 minutes.

2. Continue phone calls to your members and to the White House. These calls should be positive and data driven. The reality is that a 17% cut in reimbursement is not workable for community practices. Everyone, everywhere should make these calls. Each call takes only a minute or two.

3. Plan on making a "drop-in" visit to your Congressman's district office on Tuesday or Wednesday. Bring some staff, some nurses, and some patients. Be positive, be professional, be pleasant, but be determined. Make sure that you make your case using factual data. Also do a "drop-in" to your US Senator's office (if not too far away). These visits will have an incredible impact on our issue. **Please, everyone, in every state and district, make these visits. They will truly move our issue forward. Our elected officials respond to their constituents.**

4. Continue to inform the media about our concerns. Use our three pager as an information source to reach out to the media. Dozens of newspaper, radio, and television news stories about our issue have been featured during the past few weeks.

Together, we are making great progress on our issue. It is an incredible story of democracy in action. I have seen, first hand, many members of Congress pressing forward and asking the leadership to act

on our issue - simply because individuals like you are fulfilling our civic duty. The leadership is responding, positively. However, we have not yet arrived at our destination. Let's press on, just a little longer.

Remember, no one will do this for us, we must do it ourselves.

Steve Coplon, MHA, CMPE
Chief Executive Officer - The West Clinic
Co-Executive Director, The Community Oncology Alliance
100 N. Humphreys Blvd.
Memphis, TN 38120
(901) 683-0055 ext. 1119
www.westclinic.com
www.communityoncology.org