

Lobby Day | April 2009

Key Legislation in the 111th Congress

(as of April 15, 2009)

Bill Title / Issue	Komen Position	Notes
The 21st Century Cancer ALERT Act (S. 717 / H.R. xxx), Sens. Kennedy, Hutchison, Feinstein — Comprehensive cancer legislation with a focus on early detection, research and access to treatment and cancer care.	Komen SUPPORTS. KAA & Affiliates sent letters of support to sponsors and cosponsors and encouraged other Senators to cosponsor; subject of multiple email alerts.	Introduced in the Senate; awaiting introduction in the House.
The Breast Cancer EARLY Act (H.R. 1740 / S. xxx), Reps. Wasserman Schultz, Myrick, Christensen, Bean / Sen. Klobuchar — Initiates a public education campaign about breast cancer and women under age 40; educates health care providers; and provides grants to organizations that work with young women diagnosed with breast cancer.	Komen SUPPORTS. KAA & Affiliates sent letter of support sponsors and cosponsors; subject of email alert.	Introduced in the House; awaiting introduction in the Senate. There are currently 260 cosponsors in the House.
Access to Cancer Clinical Trials Act of 2009 (H.R. 716, S. 488), Reps. Israel, Myrick, Capps / Sen. Brown — Requires group health plans and health insurance providers to cover routine patient care costs for people enrolled in clinical trials.	Komen SUPPORTS. KAA sent letter of support to sponsors of both provisions; House version was the subject of an email alert.	This Senate bill is slightly stronger than the House version — covers federal employees, clears up some vague language.
Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act (H.R. 1691/ S. 688), Reps. DeLauro, Barton / Sens. Landrieu, Snowe — Requires coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies and lymph node dissections, and coverage for a second opinion.	Komen SUPPORTS. KAA sent letter of support to sponsor.	Bill has been introduced in multiple previous Congresses. Passed the House but not the Senate in the 110 th Congress.
Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act (H.R. 1844) Rep. Capps — Reimburses Medicare providers for coordinating the cancer care patients receive during treatment and coordinating care after treatment has concluded.	Komen SUPPORTS.	
Assuring and Improving Cancer Treatment Education and Cancer Symptom Management Act (H.R. 1927), Reps. Israel, Tiberi — Provides Medicare coverage of comprehensive cancer patient treatment education services and research to improve cancer symptom management.	Komen SUPPORTS.	

Preexisting Condition Patient Protection Act of 2009 (S. 623 / H.R. 1558), Sen. Rockefeller / Rep. Courtney — Prohibits pre-existing condition exclusions in group health plans and in health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets.	Komen is monitoring this legislation.	
Mammogram and MRI Availability Act of 2009 (H.R. 995), Nadler — Mandates insurance companies to cover screening mammography for women over age 40, and MRIs for high-risk women.	Komen is monitoring this legislation.	
Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act (H.R. 1085/S. 442), Sen Dorgan, Rep Eshoo — Imposes limits on group health plans and the lifetime limits they can impose.	Komen is monitoring this legislation.	
Promoting Innovation and Access to Life-Saving Medicine Act (H.R. 1427 / S. 726), Rep. Waxman / Sen. Schumer — Creates a pathway to the market for follow-on biologics, or generic biotech drugs.	Komen is monitoring this legislation.	
Pathway for Biosimilars Act (H.R. 1548), Rep. Eschoo — Establishes a pathway for the licensure of biosimilar biological products.	Komen is monitoring this legislation.	
Paget's Cancer Awareness Act (H.R. 822), King — Provides an awareness program and a study on Paget's disease, a rare form of cancer of the nipple.	Komen is monitoring this legislation.	
<i>Expected to be introduced in the 111th Congress</i>		
Mother's Day Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (H.R. xxx, S. xxx), Rep. Capito / Sen. Rockefeller — Creates a commemorative coin, the proceeds of which would benefit research funded by Komen and the National Osteoporosis Foundation.	Komen SUPPORTS and will help secure cosponsors for introduction in May, around Mother's Day.	Komen supported this legislation in the 110 th Congress. The bill passed the House in the 110 th Congress with almost 300 cosponsors. The bill had 27 cosponsors in the Senate, but did not have an up or down vote.
National Cancer Fund (H.R. xxx), Reps. Higgins, Israel — Creates a cancer trust fund to supplement cancer appropriations.		Bill is being developed with the assistance of One Voice Against Cancer, of which Komen is a member.