

January 11, 2008

Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS
17th Surgeon General of the United States
President, Canyon Ranch Institute
Canyon Ranch Institute
8600 E. Rockcliff Road
Tucson, AZ 85750

Dear Dr. Carmona:

On behalf of the Lance Armstrong Foundation, I am respectfully and sincerely requesting your help in the war against cancer. As an 11-year cancer survivor, I am one of more than 10 million Americans who have faced this nightmare.

This year alone, 1.4 million Americans are expected to be diagnosed and 560,000 will likely lose their lives to the disease. Cancer has become an epidemic that touches every single American life and costs our economy over \$300 billion every year. In addition, with the aging of the baby-boomer population, it is probable that we will see an upswing in the toll that cancer will take on America in years to come.

Unfortunately, the battle against cancer has lost momentum. We, as a nation, have become complacent in our struggle to defeat this foe. While we know that an overwhelming number of cancer cases can be prevented, cancer death rates have decreased only marginally since the 1950's. Early detection saves lives and dramatically reduces both physical and economic burdens. However, since the United States declared War on Cancer in 1971, we have yet to make cancer prevention and survivorship a national priority.

Cancer causes pain, disability, infertility, anxiety, and depression. It overwhelms patients and loved ones who must identify treatment options, weigh numerous medical decisions, navigate a complex insurance maze, balance large financial costs, and provide for their families. Tragically, we fail to sufficiently address cancer at a national level and to support the needs of the millions of Americans facing these incredible challenges.

Without a strategic plan and the commitment to support it, the health and well-being of millions of Americans are at risk.

Cancer poses a health threat unlike any other our nation has faced. Therefore, our approach to addressing it as a national epidemic must also be unique. Our scientists at the National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, academic institutions, and other research organizations are working admirably to help find a cure. Cutting-edge technologies in imaging, genetics, proteomics, and nanotechnology will greatly advance our ability to diagnose and treat many cancers. However, there are many things we can do now. Our researchers need sustained investments to improve our ability to prevent, diagnose, treat, and manage cancer. Americans need a coordinated public health strategy translating scientific knowledge into health practices that reaches everyone across the nation.

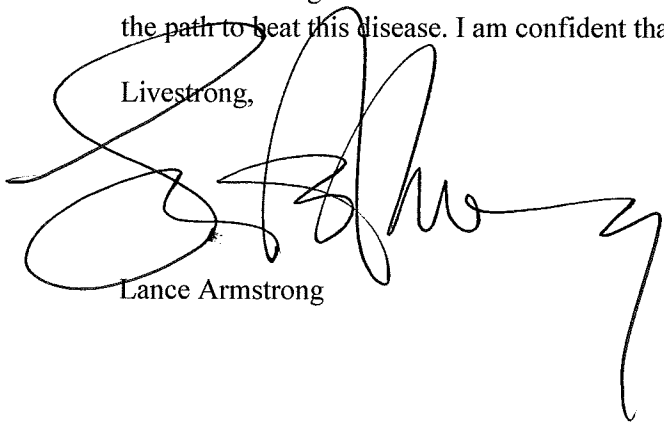
As Surgeon General of the United States, you cared for the largest clinical practice in the world – 300 million Americans – and led the 6000 uniformed officers of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. You communicated evidence-based advice and information to the American people and made recommendations to the President and the Nation on critical public health issues.

I know that you recently formed the Surgeons General Collective, an independent body composed of the previous Surgeons General of the United States, to continue to address national public health issues. I am respectfully requesting that this Collective, with its wealth of experience and wisdom, recognize cancer as a national health priority and recommend a strategic plan for how, as a nation, we can:

- Provide access to quality cancer care for all Americans
- Improve the quality of life of all Americans affected by cancer
- Manage cancer through prevention, early detection, planning, and data collection with an emphasis on cancer survivorship
- Align our research priorities with health outcomes

The time has come to vigorously reengage in our fight against cancer. I am hopeful that the collective voice of the Surgeons General of the United States will help guide Americans and our political leaders on the path to beat this disease. I am confident that, with your help, we can win the war on cancer.

Livestrong,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Armstrong', written over the printed name.

Lance Armstrong