

CANYON RANCH *Institute*

Lance Armstrong
The Lance Armstrong Foundation
P.O. Box 161150
Austin, TX 78716

January 15, 2008

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Lance

Thank you for your letter of January 11, 2008, requesting my continued help in the war against cancer. Soon after we met and started working together during my service as Surgeon General of the United States, I came to see you as fellow health warrior in what I often refer to as the "New War on Cancer."

A War on Cancer was announced in the early 1970s, and certainly helped to raise awareness and build progress. Today, we have new tools for cancer diagnosis, screening, and treatment; a better understanding of care management; but unfortunately many more people affected by cancer. We need to bring together the right resources and assure a level of commitment to fight cancer and begin winning more consistently.

As you know from the scientific data and from the work you have done for over 11 years to improve the lives of cancer survivors, we can make great strides in winning this war. However, the reality is that despite earnest efforts in the medical and research community, among government agencies and advocacy groups, and by many individuals, we have yet to achieve the level of momentum and national coordination necessary to win the war against cancer.

There are few Americans whose lives haven't been touched by cancer. The need and the urgency to make cancer prevention and survivorship a national priority should be clear to all of us, but the level of action and progress is not nearly what it should be.

The New War on Cancer must adequately reflect the realities we face, and respond with the right resources and action to meet the challenge.

Lance, this is an opportunity to engage a partnership between the Lance Armstrong Foundation and Canyon Ranch Institute, the non-profit public health organization that I lead, in order to re-engage the fight against cancer. As you know, in addition to our previous work together, our organizations now have a relationship as members of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease.

With our combined strengths, and with other dedicated people standing with us, we will make cancer a national priority. As you cited, I recently formed the Surgeons General Collective with my fellow Surgeons General of the United States.

The Surgeons General Collective is proposing to develop a “Surgeons General National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship” outlining a battle plan for the New War on Cancer.

As Surgeons General, we have access to the best available science, innovations, and best practices in disease prevention and health promotion. Together with the Lance Armstrong Foundation, we can bring together all Americans – including cancer survivors, health care professionals, policymakers, employers, educators, insurers, and scientists – to identify the best strategies for cancer prevention and survivorship and make both cancer prevention and survivorship a national priority.

I hope to hear from you about these ideas. As always, my best wishes for your continued well-being.

In Good Health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Carmona". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS
17th Surgeon General of the United States (2002-2006)
President, Canyon Ranch Institute