



# Promise

The American Cancer Society encourages government at all levels — local, state and federal — to work toward a goal of eliminating suffering and death from cancer.

Over the course of a lifetime, cancer strikes one out of two men and one out of three women, killing approximately 560,000 residents each year. Each cancer death, on average, steals 15 years of life. But today, more people are living with cancer than dying from it — a testament to our nation's investment in cancer research, prevention, early detection, treatment and care.

In 2003 and 2004, for two consecutive years, the actual number of cancer deaths dropped. Today, cancer is becoming one of the most preventable and increasingly curable life-threatening diseases when detected early. Simply applying what we now know about prevention and early detection across the country could cut cancer deaths in half and save billions of health care dollars.

Many are already actively doing their part to defeat this disease, but it cannot be done without the sustained leadership and strong commitment of state governments. Defeating cancer is possible if we adopt bold new policies and make the financial investments necessary. The opportunity to defeat this disease demands our focused attention and there are concrete steps we can take in each state to jumpstart our progress.

**In doing my part to conquer cancer, I promise to work for the people of my state to:**

- 1) **Make health system reform a state priority.**
  - a. I will urge my party's leaders to commit to meaningful, comprehensive bipartisan solutions;
  - b. I will support meaningful reform efforts and educate myself about the gaps in the current system as it affects our fight against cancer.
  - c. I will work against any health care reform attempts that would roll back state guarantees of coverage voted to the people of this state (in past legislative sessions) or reduce access to insurance coverage for the people of this state.
- 2) **Elevate and enhance prevention, early detection, quality of life care and survivorship.**
  - a. I will work for programs that increase colorectal, breast and cervical cancer screening rates;
  - b. I will promote various policies that help smokers quit and reduce their risk for lung and other smoking related cancers;
  - c. I will ensure that my state dedicates the required resources to implement a comprehensive statewide cancer control plan;
  - d. I will work to ensure that all cancer patients and survivors have access to proper quality of life care, including pain control treatments and medicines.
- 3) **Expand access to care.**
  - a. I will work to increase preventive health services, which have been proven to improve health outcomes;
  - b. I will work to ensure that all eligible women and men have access to life-saving screenings; and
  - c. I will work toward policies that increase colorectal, breast and cervical screening rates for the medically underserved.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_