

LEADING US-BASED PROSTATE CANCER ORGANIZATIONS DEVELOP JOINT POLICY AGENDA

(Updated March 2010 with additional organizations pledging support.)

Washington, DC -- The prostate cancer education and advocacy community has come together to collaborate on and develop a shared agenda in the interests of the hundreds of thousands of American men who are at risk for a diagnosis of prostate cancer every year.

The leadership from eight leading prostate cancer organizations met on April 2, in Washington, DC, to explore how to effectively work together on specific policy initiatives to advocate for early detection and appropriate treatment of clinically significant prostate cancer, particularly among those men at high risk for this disease leading to the deaths of over 28,000 American men every year.

First, the eight organizations reached consensus that:

- We will continue to work with other cancer groups in support of increased federal funding for cancer research through the annual appropriations process to support the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute, and the Centers for Disease Control
- We will continue to call upon Congress to increase funding for the Prostate Cancer Research Program at the Department of Defense

Second, the eight organizations will work closely together in support of four specific initiatives:

- Passage of a Bill to create an Office of Men's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); this Office will mirror the fine work of the Office on Women's Health
- Passage of a Congressional resolution that there is a prostate cancer epidemic among the African American community, and that appropriate research and educational initiatives are needed to combat this epidemic
- Passage of the Thomas J. Manton Early Detection and Treatment Act, which is focused on the provision of funds to support the early detection and appropriate treatment of clinically significant prostate cancer in underprivileged and underserved communities
- Elimination of "least costly alternative" (LCA) policies for Medicare beneficiaries

Finally, the eight organizations agreed to work closely with other relevant cancer and consumer organizations to ensure that healthcare reform includes provisions for the early detection and appropriate treatment of clinically significant prostate cancer across all sectors.

The statement above has been approved by the following eight prostate cancer organizations:

Malecare Prostate Cancer Support – www.malecare.com

Men's Health Network – www.menshealthnetwork.org

National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions – www.nasppcc.org

Prostate Cancer International – www.pcainternational.org

Prostate Health Education Network – www.prostatehealthed.org

Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network – www.ustoo.org

Women Against Prostate Cancer – www.womenagainstprostatecancer.org

ZERO – The Project to End Prostate Cancer – www.zerocancer.org

Additional organizations pledging support:

Accelerate Progress – accelerateprogress.org

American Urological Association Foundation – www.auafoundation.org

Bat for the Cure – www.batforthecure.org

Prostate Conditions Education Council – www.prostateconditions.org

Prostate Cancer Foundation – www.prostatecancerfoundation.org

Prostate Net – www.prostatenet.org