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American Cancer Society Applauds National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship

Statement of Dr. Elmer Huerta, National Volunteer President

WASHINGTON – July 23, 2008 – “The American Cancer Society is pleased to be involved with the Surgeons General and the Lance Armstrong Foundation in this effort to re-engage the country in the war on cancer.

“The Call to Action is a common-sense prescription that the country should follow in our efforts to defeat a disease that will kill more than 560,000 people in America this year. This document should serve as a wake-up call to elected officials, the private sector and individuals across the country that by employing what we already know, we can dramatically reduce the cancer burden and save lives.

“The Society and its advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), are working to improve access to lifesaving cancer information and care.

“With 47 million uninsured people in America and an additional 25 million who are underinsured, we must expand access to screenings that can prevent cancer and catch it early, ensure that patients can effectively navigate the health care system with the help of patient navigator tools and services, encourage a greater emphasis among health care providers and patients on survivorship care, and enact strong tobacco control laws and other policies that empower people to adopt healthy lifestyles.

“Cancer is Americans’ top health concern and is the leading disease killer of people under age 85. It is time that we once again make this disease a top national priority.”

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, the Society has 13 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across America. For more information anytime, call toll free 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

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