



The National Network for Healthcare Access | Since 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2008

Contact: Jenn Lawson, 703-548-0019

National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) Supports Adoption of *National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship*

*Plan Unveiled Today by Four Former U.S. Surgeons General and Lance Armstrong Foundation Recommends New Strategies for All Americans to Make Cancer Prevention and Survivorship a Priority;
Over 1.4 Million Americans Diagnosed with Cancer Yearly*

WASHINGTON (July 23, 2008) – The National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) expressed support today for the *National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship* issued by the nation’s four most recent Surgeons General – Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H.; David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.; Joycelyn Elders, M.D., M.S.; and Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.Ph. – in conjunction with the cancer prevention and survivorship community as organized by Lance Armstrong and the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF). The *National Call to Action* outlines a battle plan for the new war on cancer and the steps that Americans can take to reduce the risk of developing cancer and improve screening, early detection, treatment, and survivorship.

“NPAF wholeheartedly supports this new action plan for better preventing and surviving cancer in our nation, most particularly through its recommendation that system stakeholders work together to provide all-important financial, emotional and medical support for all cancer patients in need,” said NPAF Founder and CEO, Nancy Davenport-Ennis. “NPAF’s companion organization, the Patient Advocate Foundation, has helped thousands of cancer patients across the U.S. access resources to help overcome barriers to care, medical debt crises and employment issues threatening their livelihoods; we look forward to the enactment of the goals outlined in the *National Call to Action* and offer our complete support in making these important recommendations a reality.”

More than 1.4 million Americans are diagnosed with cancer each year, and cancer is now the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 85. Cancers that can be prevented or detected early account for at least half of all new cases.

Specifically, the blueprint unveiled today at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., calls for:

- **Empowering healthy lifestyles** through improved information about and access to healthy foods, physical activity and tobacco prevention and cessation programs;
- **Applying what is known about cancer screening and early detection to all people** by advancing screening technologies and ensuring all people receive recommended screenings;
- **Ensuring all people can navigate through the health care system** by developing and offering innovative and culturally competent patient navigator tools equipped to meet the needs of all cancer patients; and
- **Providing survivorship care plans and systems of support for all cancer survivors** through programs offering psychological services, legal and regulatory protections, financial assistance programs, pain and palliative care services, and hospice and end-of-life care.

“We at NPAF applaud the Lance Armstrong Foundation’s gathering of some the nation’s foremost health care experts – the U.S. Surgeons General – in this collaborative plan to help relieve the health, societal and economic burdens that cancer places on our nation,” said Davenport Ennis. “We hope the *National Call to Action* will help draw much-needed attention to the need for a greater emphasis on practical preventive solutions and greater support for patients – ultimately, saving lives, saving money and improving the quality of life for the estimated 12 million Americans now living with cancer.”

The Lance Armstrong Foundation collaborates with several organizations—including the Patient Advocate Foundation— to deliver the LIVESTRONG SurvivorCare program to help survivors face the everyday physical, emotional and practical challenges of cancer through education, qualified referrals and counseling services.

#

About the National Patient Advocate Foundation

National Patient Advocate Foundation is a national non-profit organization providing the patient voice in improving access to, and reimbursement for, high-quality healthcare through regulatory and legislative reform at the state and federal levels, translating the experience of millions of patients who have been helped by our companion organization, Patient Advocate Foundation. For more information, visit www.npaf.org.