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Congress Overrides President Bush's Veto of Pulmonary Rehabilitation Legislation

July 16, 2008— Yesterday the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives voted to overturn President Bush's veto of a critical bill that will make life easier for millions of Americans who suffer from serious lung disease, including many adults on Medicare who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In the vote, 70 Senators and 355 Representatives supported the overarching Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008, which includes this vital pulmonary rehabilitation legislation. The law will now take effect.

“We are very pleased that people will have access to this important healthcare,” said Margaret Crump, Senior Vice President of Community Initiatives for the American Lung Association of the Central States. “Congress made the right decision in overriding President Bush’s veto on this critical legislation.”

The Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Act ensures that older Americans in all states have access to pulmonary rehabilitation treatment as a covered benefit through Medicare. This cost-effective treatment helps reduce the impact of COPD by helping to control or reduce breathlessness and recondition the body. Pulmonary rehabilitation helps people with COPD to develop less need for medications and experience fewer hospital stays, longer survival and a better quality of life.

To take action on important lung health issues, join the American Lung Association’s e-Advocacy network by visiting www.lungaction.org.

About the American Lung Association

Beginning its second century, the American Lung Association is the leading organization working to prevent lung disease and promote lung health. Lung disease death rates continue to increase while other leading causes of death have declined.

The American Lung Association funds vital research on the causes of and treatments for lung disease. With the generous support of the public, the American Lung Association is “*Improving life, one breath at a time.*”

For more information about the American Lung Association or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872) or visit us online at www.breathehealthy.org.

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