



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Michelle Bernth
American Lung Association
314-645-5505 x1001 (p)
636-866-8340 (c)
mbernth@breathehealthy.org

President Bush Vetoes Bill with Pulmonary Rehabilitation Legislation

July 15, 2008— In spite of overwhelming support for the Medicare bill, which includes Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation provisions; on Tuesday, July 15th President Bush vetoed this legislation. Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed this important legislation, which among many other things, would 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).

“It is very disappointing that people will not have access to this important healthcare,” said Margaret Crump, Senior Vice President of Community Initiatives for the American Lung Association of the Central States. “We are hopeful that Congress will override 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 this and other 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.

###