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## United States Senate

REPUBLICAN LEADER  
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RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

September 22, 2014

Marilyn Tavenner  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-0004

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

As I am sure you know, lung cancer has the highest mortality rate of all cancers in the United States. Additionally, my home state of Kentucky has the highest state mortality rate of lung cancer in the country, and the disease claims the lives of approximately 3,000 Kentuckians every year. I hear regularly from constituents about the need to better prevent and treat lung cancer.

Through my work to secure funding for a medical monitoring program for Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant workers and retirees, I have seen firsthand the importance of cancer screening and early detection. This program has screened thousands of current and former workers at the plant for cancers, including lung cancer.

To build upon the PGDP medical monitoring program, I would encourage your agency to give a timely and fair review to determining whether low-dose computerized tomography (CT) scans should be covered by Medicare for patients at high-risk for developing lung cancer.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that this type of early detection method be used by high-risk individuals – those that are aged 55 to 80 years old who have smoked a pack of cigarettes a day for 30 years or more. In its recommendation, the USPSTF cited the substantial reduction in lung cancer mortality as a benefit of early detection through low-dose CT scans.

In one way or another, cancer has touched the lives of almost every American, and ensuring Kentucky's seniors have access to innovative diagnostic tools and treatment options should be a priority. Therefore, I ask that CMS review all of the available information and make an informed, timely decision regarding the Medicare coverage of low-dose CT scans for high-risk individuals. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response so that I may share it with my constituents.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/jh