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**Fight Colorectal Cancer Endorses Life-Saving Legislation Introduced
by Representatives Kay Granger (R-TX) and Jim McGovern (D-MA)
Along With Senators Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) and Kay Bailey
Hutchison (R-TX)**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – March 7, 2011 – Fight Colorectal Cancer is pleased to endorse this bipartisan and bicameral legislation that will ensure access to colorectal cancer screening and treatment by authorizing grant funding for states and local health departments. The “Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment Act” (H.R. 912/S. 494) will protect the men and women who are within the recommended age for colorectal cancer screening, but not yet eligible for Medicare.

With an estimated 51,370 deaths last year, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. Of the men and women expected to die of colorectal cancer in 2011, 50% could be saved if they were tested earlier.

Screening saves lives in two ways, by preventing cancer when pre-cancerous polyps are removed, and by finding cancer in its earliest, curable stage. Screening also saves money. According to an independent study by The Lewin Group, the provisions in this bill will save Medicare billions of dollars.

According to the NCI, cancer treatment for colorectal cancer topped \$14 billion in 2010. The cost of 60% of these colorectal cancer cases are borne by the Medicare program.

“We urge Congress to pass this crucial legislation to help us stop one of the few cancers that is preventable through early detection and screening,” said Carlea Bauman, President of Fight Colorectal Cancer. “Fight Colorectal Cancer is grateful to Representatives Kay Granger and Jim McGovern along with Senators Joseph Lieberman and Kay Bailey Hutchison for their leadership. This legislation is a crucial step in winning the fight against this disease.”

Passage of H.R. 912 and S. 494 is a top priority for Fight Colorectal Cancer. The programs proposed in this legislation could potentially save thousands of lives and reduce the burden of cancer costs and prevent many colorectal cancer cases and deaths altogether.

“While the Affordable Care Act will lower the cost of preventive services like colonoscopies for many Americans, the law will not do anything to increase awareness about the importance of early detection and screening. Today, even among those with health insurance, screening rates for colorectal cancer are much too low – less than half of those who should be screened get screened,” said Nancy Roach, Chair of Fight Colorectal Cancer’s Board of Directors. “When the national breast and cervical cancer screening program was enacted in the mid-80s, the screening rate for breast cancer was around 29%. Today, that rate is close to 80%. It is

time we made the same headway in the fight against colorectal cancer and enacted a national screening and treatment program for colorectal cancer.”

Fight Colorectal Cancer (formerly the C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition) is the leading colorectal cancer advocacy organization in Washington, DC and demands a cure for the second leading cancer killer in the United States. In addition to our advocacy work, we offer support for patients, family members, and caregivers and serve as a resource for colorectal cancer advocates, policymakers, medical professionals, and healthcare providers. We also do everything we can to increase and improve research – at all stages of development and for all stages of cancer. Find out how you can get involved at FightColorectalCancer.org.

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