

May 4, 2011

The Honorable Kay Granger
United States House of Representatives
320 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Via Fax: 202-225-5683

RE: H.R. 912 - Support

Dear Congresswoman Granger:

We are writing on behalf of the Disability Rights Legal Center to thank you for sponsoring the Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection, and Treatment Act (H.R. 912), which will create a national colorectal cancer screening and treatment program. The breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment programs have demonstrated the probable success of this initiative.

If passed, this bill would help provide colorectal cancer screening to individuals who are at a higher risk for colorectal cancer or those who are over 50, but not yet eligible for Medicare. This bill would also provide screening for those who have low-incomes and/or who are underinsured or uninsured and thus would otherwise not have coverage for colorectal cancer screening and/or treatment.

In the United States, colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death in both men and women. Often referred to as the silent killer, combating colorectal cancer can only be accomplished through early detection and treatment. This bill would ensure that those that most need it are given access to proper screening and early detection services.

The Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) is the oldest cross-disability legal advocacy organization in the country, having served the disability community for over 35 years. Our mission is to champion the rights of people with disabilities through education, advocacy, and litigation.

Through our Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), we have unique knowledge and experience with laws and legislation that impact the rights of individuals diagnosed with cancer, cancer survivors and caregivers. The CLRC, a national, joint program of the DLRC and Loyola Law School Los Angeles, has provided over 231,000 people with free information and resources on cancer-related legal issues, including access to care, insurance, government benefits, estate planning, and employment. Please visit www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org for more information.

The DRLC strongly supports H.R. 912 and your dedication to increasing access to screening and treatment for colorectal cancer. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or if there is anything that we can do to ensure that people have access to screening and early detection.

Sincerely,



Paula D. Pearlman, Esq.
Executive Director, Disability Rights Legal Center



Joanna L. Morales, Esq.
Director, Cancer Legal Resource Center