



Remarks of Carlea Bauman, C3's President – As Prepared for Delivery

The State of Colorectal Cancer Screening and Prevention

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Washington, DC

Thank you, Mark. It is a great pleasure to be a partner with Olympus in today's forum.

C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition is celebrating its 5th birthday this year. The organization was created when a committed group of colorectal cancer activists banded together to change the landscape for people living with this disease.

One of the best ways to change the landscape is to get Congress to sit up and take notice that things are not where they should be – and need to be changed.

Three years ago, we made it a priority to pass legislation that would create a National Colorectal Cancer Screening Program.

The goal of such a program is to bring lifesaving screenings to people who otherwise could not afford them.

At C3, we receive calls EVERY DAY from people who are aware that they need to get screened for colorectal cancer and are desperately searching for a way to afford it.

We help them the best we can. Thanks to the folks at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and some charitable hospitals around the country we know that there exists a patchwork of free or reduced-cost screening programs out there.

But the fact of the matter is, right now, if you're uninsured or under-insured and over 50, whether you get screened for colorectal cancer or not depends entirely on where you live. If you are lucky enough to live where the CDC programs are hard at work, we have got good news for you. If you do not, well, that's a tough conversation to have.

Because we know that those without insurance get diagnosed at later stages and die sooner than those with insurance.

I look forward to the day where a national program exists so that when these calls come in, we can say, "Yes, you can get screened and yes, you can afford it."



That day will only come if we pass H.R. 1189, The Colorectal Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment Act.

C3 is working very hard on this legislation, and we are partnering with several organizations on it – many of whom are in the audience today. Our grassroots advocacy training and lobby day – the Call-on Congress – will send advocates up to Capitol Hill on March 17th to urge their legislators to support the bill. And on March 30th, C3 is partnering with the Prevent Cancer Foundation on the Congressional Butt-In – a one day phone blitz to Congress.

But our advocacy efforts do not end there. I encourage you to get involved in the fight for the creation of a National Colorectal Cancer Screening Program. It is the first step in truly fighting back against this disease.

Thank you.