

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SENATE RESOLUTION 720 PASSES, RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

**EL SEGUNDO, CA – (December 12, 2008)** – The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, the only national organization creating hope in a comprehensive way through research, patient support, community outreach and advocacy for a cure, applauds Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY), Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA), and Arlen Specter (R-PA) for their leadership in introducing and passing Senate Resolution 720. The legislation recognizes November as National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and draws attention to the lack of funding for pancreatic cancer research and the urgent need for early detection methods and more effective treatment options for patients.

The legislation also acknowledges the advocacy efforts and legacy of Dr. Randy Pausch, who died of pancreatic cancer in July 2008. Pausch, who became famous after delivering his 'last lecture' at Carnegie Mellon University, gave a face to pancreatic cancer by speaking out publicly about the lack of federal support for pancreatic cancer research. In March 2008, Pausch testified on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network about the urgent need for increased federal funding for pancreatic cancer research to the U.S. House of Representative's Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Related Agencies.

"The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network thanks Senators Clinton, Casey and Specter for supporting the goals and ideals of National Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month and for helping the pancreatic cancer community carry forward the legacy of our dear friend, Dr. Randy Pausch," stated Julie Fleshman, President and CEO. "With the continued support of these legislators, we will work towards increasing federal funding for pancreatic cancer and give hope to nearly 38,000 Americans fighting this terrible disease."

Pancreatic cancer is the 4th leading cause of cancer death in the United States, yet is the most under recognized and least studied among leading cancer killers. In an effort to make significant progress with this deadly disease, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network launched, in January 2008, Raise the Cure, an unprecedented initiative that combines a commitment to raise \$25 million in private funding with a call for the federal government to devote more attention and resources to finding a cure and treatments for pancreatic cancer.

The federal component of the plan, called The National Plan to Advance Pancreatic Cancer Research, was developed by the organization's esteemed Scientific Advisory Board, and is a detailed blueprint of the research and federal resources required to make true inroads in this disease, by boosting research funding, focusing the research, building a pool of talented young researchers, and launching a new patient and physician education program. It has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives as H.R. 7045.

To learn more about the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, visit [www.pancan.org](http://www.pancan.org).

**About the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network**

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the only national organization creating hope in a comprehensive way through research, patient support, community outreach and advocacy for a cure. The organization raises money for direct private funding of research—and advocates for more aggressive federal research funding of medical breakthroughs in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic cancer.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network fills the void of information and options by giving patients and caregivers reliable, personalized information they need to make informed decisions. We create a sense of hope and community so no one has to face pancreatic cancer alone. The organization helps support individuals and communities all across the country work together to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for pancreatic cancer.

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

**Jennifer Reeves**

Public Relations Manager  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Direct: 310-321-6542  
Email: [jreeves@pancan.org](mailto:jreeves@pancan.org)