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[lungcanceralliance.org](http://lungcanceralliance.org)

August 9, 2005

Mrs. Christopher Reeve  
C/o Kathy Lewis, President  
Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation  
500 Morris Avenue  
Springfield, NJ 07081

Dear Mrs. Reeve,

It is very sad that after all you have been through you must now face the difficult challenge of lung cancer. Please know that we, the Lung Cancer Alliance, and the patients we represent are here to help you and support you in any way we can. So many messages have come in here today asking us to pass on to you their support and love.

The increase in the number of women being diagnosed with lung cancer, many of whom never smoked, has reached epidemic proportions. Over 60% of new lung cancer patients have never smoked or quit smoking, many of them decades ago.


Yet our public health community stands mute as all lung cancer patients are scarred with the stigma of smoking, and as myths persist that quitting smoking ends lung cancer risk. There is no sense of urgency or determination to address this number one cancer killer, and the reason has more to do with politics than science.

You and your husband carried a valiant and successful effort to force the public health establishment to focus more adequate research funding on spinal column injuries, and above all to coordinate their efforts into a meaningful strategy with a defined goal: to find a cure. We stand in awe of the work you have done.

We also stand in awe of your courage in letting the public know about your own diagnosis. As you know from your own efforts, without public education, awareness and support there can be no change in public health policy.

We will think of you during your treatment and hope that you will make a full and complete recovery. Again, please do not hesitate to call on us for any help you may need.

Sincerely,

  
Laurie Fenton  
President

NO MORE EXCUSES. **NO MORE LUNG CANCER.**