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**McCain Discusses Health Care at LIVESTRONG Summit Town
Hall Meeting
Armstrong Introduction and McCain Part 1
LIVESTRONG
July 24, 2008**

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LANCE ARMSTRONG: Good evening everybody. Thank you for being here. Welcome to Columbus, Ohio to The Ohio State University [applause]. As you all know, we are a country at war. You read every day in the papers all across the country, you turn on the news channel every hour of every day and you understand that we are a country at war.

We are here for a different war. I was fortunate enough and honored enough to be asked to go to Iraq and Afghanistan and Qatar, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Spain for the week before last Christmas, 15 bases in six days. It was one of the most humbling experiences I have ever, I thought hotels of the Tour De France were bad [laughter]. That resets the scales for what sacrifice means but we all know that we are also engaged in other wars.

There are a lot of warriors here, a lot of soldiers, a lot of fighters. Jeff Bennett from Bangor, Maine, is he here? Where is Jeff? Jeff is right here. Jeff is fighting a war. Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts is fighting a war. Robert Molina behind me, Robert from Palm Harbor is fighting a war. This is a war we have been fighting for a long time. We declared this war. We picked this fight. We declared the war in 1971 when Richard Nixon started the National Cancer Institute and initially funded it with \$150 million.

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The reality of this war and the reality of our situation is that this year alone, 1.4 million Americans will have this war walk up to their doorstep and say you have cancer. Five hundred and sixty thousand Americans will lose this war and have their last breath taken from this foe. That is one American every minute. That is 1,500 Americans every single day. That is a significant war.

This war came to me in 1996. I was one of those people sitting at home. I was actually sitting in the office of the doctor when this enemy walked in and said I am here. What are you going to do? I did not know. I did not understand what chemotherapy was. I did not know what surgery felt like.

I did not understand the complexity of this disease but through these 11 years, 11 or 12 years that I have been able knock on wood, I hope this is wood, in order to survive this disease. I have learned a lot. Six years on the Cancer Panel of the President. Stories of analysts and I mean thousands if not tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of stories that we hear on a daily basis through the work at the foundation.

We know how to win the war. It is going to take a comprehensive approach. It is going to take a renewed approach. It is going to take a focused approach just like you win any war. We have to talk about the cancer continuum. We know that that is the way to address this war, hundreds of types of

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diseases under this cancer umbrella, the cancer continuum being prevention. We, as a society, must address the prevention component, whether that is tobacco abuse, whether that is healthy habits and lifestyles, diet, exercise, sunscreen, etc. We must address that. We must be proactive. As they always say, an ounce of prevention is a pound of cure.

The second thing we must do is screen all Americans and catch cancer at the earliest stage as possible for every American regardless of the color of their skin, regardless of the language they speak, the neighborhood they live in. Everybody will tell you that screening and early detection often leads to a cure.

Fiscally and economically will also tell you that a screening test might cost a dime versus late-stage care costs a dollar. Economically, that makes no sense. Morally, obviously, it makes no sense but economically it does not either.

Access to care in the United States alone, of those 560,000 deaths, it is estimated that 200,000 of them could be prevented. We have the medicine in the hospital. We have the technology. We have the doctors. We have the surgery. We have the methods but we do not apply what we know to the people that need it the most.

So a full third of all cancer deaths could be prevented. Those people could go back to their friends, to

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their family, to their homes, to their schools, their communities, and resume life. We must address that. We must address how we provide that care for everybody.

The fourth thing, research, this is the one that we all, I think, immediately think of what is the latest research? What is the latest clinical trial? What can I do for myself? What do I need? What is cutting edge? We must re-double our efforts, refocus our efforts on this particular phase of the continuum. The fact that we are shrinking the budget at the National Cancer Institute is unacceptable. We must readdress that [applause]. Pick the best leaders. As you all know, just like any team, you have the President of the United States. We have one of two possibilities here tonight, Senator McCain [applause].

The responsibility of the President is to appoint the best and the brightest to run the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute. We must make sure that we all have a comprehensive, strategic approach to this war.

The fifth thing is survivorship, something that I think most of us in this room know so very well. Regardless of your diagnosis, regardless of what you went through, we all deserve to have that life that we wanted. We all deserve to go back to that job that we always had or we always wanted. I wanted to go back and ride my bike again. It turned out okay [laughter].I

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wanted to have children. It also turned out okay. We deserve that and we deserve the highest quality of life as cancer survivors.

Lastly, if somebody does not make it successfully through those first five phases and they are not going to survive, they deserve to die pain-free. They deserve to die with dignity. They deserve to die surrounded by friends and family and ready and at peace to move on.

This is the cancer [applause] yes. It starts in this room. It starts with events like tonight. It starts with events like this weekend. This is the cancer community of America. This is the army of America against this disease, against this foe. It does not have a face but it has a toll.

So we are so honored that you are all here, a thousand delegates, many more in the room, to talk about it. It starts all the way from the presidential election all the way down to the simplest and most effective grassroots movement that we, as a cause, can represent and can dream of. So from my heart and the heart of my family and from everybody at the foundation, which I think is truly the greatest step in the non-profit world. We thank you all for being here.

We have made progress. I will tell you that. So many times the default for so many people is this system is broken.

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Well it needs to be tweaked definitely but we have made progress. We have 12 million cancer survivors in this country.

Many of you guys fully understand that. We are on the heels of that, of what we have started decades ago.

There is hope for the future. You have pending legislation in Congress with Senator Kennedy, Senator Hutchinson to completely modernize the approach of our country to this disease, how we fund it, how we approach it, how we address it, and how we treat it, how we prioritize it. That is pending.

You have mayors like Michael Bloomberg in New York City that, against total opposition, came in and said I am going to make New York City smoke-free. Everybody said you are crazy and [applause] he said no, I am going to do that. Now it ended up being good for business, obviously good for public health and not that Mayor Bloomberg should ever care about it because he was convinced that it was the right thing to do. Half of all states in the United States are smoke-free.

Finally on November 4th, you will have, we will have the opportunity to pick the 44th President of the United States of America. In my view as a survivor, the 44th President must take on this challenge, must address this burden, must address this epidemic that we call cancer.

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So that is why we are so honored tonight to have Senator McCain agree to be here and to talk about his experience as a survivor but also as the man that wants to be that 44th President of the United States of America [applause].

Now just a little bit about tonight. We, at the foundation, we are a non-profit. We are a 501C3. We do not have the ability nor do we want to have the ability to pick a side, to endorse, to say what we believe. We believe that we want to cure cancer. The trick is that in this election, cancer does not care if you are Republican or if you are Democrat. It simply does not care. It does not care if you are young or you are old, you are rich or you are poor. It does not care. Our job is to give the candidates a forum to come and discuss it and as I said, discuss their experience and discuss their plan.

We did the same thing in Iowa last summer we had six presidential candidates come and speak, lay out their agenda, and here we are. Before I finish up, I need to thank a few people. I already mentioned The Ohio State University [laughter] [applause] and all of you delegates and survivors here. It would not be possible without your work. I know you are here to listen and pay attention and go back to your communities and to your families and really make a difference and that is the kind of stuff that is immeasurable when it comes to this fight.

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Paula, thank you for being here, bringing your son [applause]. Your son is somewhere around here [applause]. My mom is here. Where is my mom? Sorry, I had to, hi mom [applause]. For those of you, if you all are ever up here and your mom is in the audience and you do not acknowledge your mother, you are in trouble [laughter] just so you know, just so you know.

Finally, I am honored, we are all honored to have Senator McCain here tonight. Senator McCain, his story is well known. He has served our country for most of his life. He has been in Congress since 1982, served around the world. He is a cancer survivor and we are, again, deeply honored to have you here tonight Senator McCain and to talk about your experience. So without further adieu, ladies and gentlemen, Senator John McCain [applause].

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN (R-ARIZ.): Thank you very much. Thank you [applause]. Thank you [applause]. Thank you Lance [applause]. Thank you [applause]. Thank you very much for that very warm welcome from The Ohio State University [laughter]. I appreciate your hospitality very much and I do not want to bring back any unpleasant memories but a couple of years ago, I had the great honor of flipping the coin at the onset of the Ohio State/Florida game but it was not a good game for Ohio State but they were there competing for the national

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championship and everybody is proud of that team and they will be proud of the team in this upcoming year.

So I want to thank all of you for being here. It is a wonderful experience. I would also like to say a word about Dr. Gee and our thoughts and our prayers are with him and we will pray for the speedy recovery of his daughter and we obviously mourn the loss of his son-in-law and we honor him and his continued service to one of the great universities in America.

My friends, I am grateful to be here and we are all familiar with the story of courage and perseverance that led our host to seven victories across the finish line in Paris but it says even more about the man that, to this day, is leading the cause of cancer research. He knows what it is like to get a tough prognosis and he knows what a difference it makes to have the support and love of others.

For many thousands of people in the fight of their lives, Lance Armstrong is making all the difference in the world and I am honored to be in his company. Can we thank him again [applause]?

Well now, you build this event as a presidential town hall and I sincerely hope that the next President is here this evening [laughter] [applause]. My opponent, of course, is traveling in Europe and tomorrow, his tour takes him to France. In a scene that Lance would recognize, a throng of adoring fans

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awaits Senator Obama in Paris and that is just the American press [laughter] [applause]. I am here with you to listen and to learn and I look forward to your questions.

Let me offer a few thoughts before we begin our panel discussion. I would like to begin as I will end thanking you. I am not going to talk to you about why I want to be President of the United States nor give you a campaign speech but I can tell you that I want to be President because I want to inspire a generation of Americans to serve a cause greater than their self interests and you here tonight are the classic example of the greatness and strength of America because every one here could be someplace else but instead, you are here to serve a cause greater than your self interest and it is my honor to be in your company.

So please give yourselves a little applause for what you are doing [applause] in the struggle [applause] and the battle [applause] that we will win and yes, I was in a battle not a war like some of the people, brave Americans that Lance just pointed out but I was in a battle with melanoma and I know and I know somewhat, at least a small degree, how tough that battle can be and yes, I have become a fanatic. Yes, I admit it. When I see a woman with a child in the sun, I go over and say get sunscreen on that child please, please.

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We all know especially from a state like Arizona, that I love dearly, we got a lot of sun in Arizona and we know of the rising incidence just of melanoma in my state and we know of the tragedy and havoc. Many times I recall a beloved woman by the name of Maureen Reagan who had a small spot on the back of her thigh, it went to her spine and the rest is history. You know all about that. We know of the struggle and the challenge that that faces.

I am, as Lance is, optimistic about the future. I am optimistic about the future because one of the greatest accomplishments in human history took place some years ago with a mapping of the human genome and we know that this has opened the door and the vistas in a way that we never thought possible.

I am very proud, if I might give you a little commercial, that Dr. Jeff Trent, one of those who is at the National Institute of Health at that time, has founded a wonderful company called TGen in Phoenix, Arizona and they are cooperating with the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, with the pharmaceutical companies, and they are making great progress and there are institutions here in Ohio and all across America that are making use of that incredible, incredible, incredible accomplishment that frankly most experts

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thought was not possible thanks in part for the work of organizations like LIVESTRONG.

I did see the list of organizations that are here tonight and it is incredibly impressive. In the lives of cancer patients, you are adding decades where once there were years and years where once there were only months. Scientists, as we all know, are closing in on the enemy, not fast enough, not fast enough in all its forms. One day they are going to save uncounted lives with a cure for cancer.

I would like to say a word about the director of the National Cancer Institute, Niederhuber who is, as you know, a graduate of this, The Ohio State University and the great job that he is doing at the National Cancer Institute. I would point out that there is \$4.8 billion in the budget and we will discuss -

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