


# CORDELE DISPATCH

"It is better to light one small candle than to sit and curse the darkness."

## Letter to the editor



### We must speak now for choice in cancer care

by **Brenda Madison**  
resident of Abbeville

Patient choice is everything when you're fighting cancer. Trust me.

I'll never forget the three words that our doctor said to my husband when he was diagnosed. "You have cancer."

So many things rushed through my mind. How bad is it? Would he need chemo? Will he survive?

And decisions had to be made. The biggest one - where do we go for treatment?

After talking with family and friends and meeting with doctors at a few area

hospitals, we chose care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Newnan, Georgia.

And that's when we learned not everyone has that choice because a state law says CTCA can treat only a limited number of Georgia patients. Just 35 percent. The rest have to come from other states.

I was shocked, sad, and furious.

I can't imagine being turned away from a cancer hospital because of a law. Luckily, we didn't have to, but others have, and others will.

Every Georgian should have a choice in their cancer treatment. It is a

deeply personal choice, and no one should be robbed of that choice because of a law.

I joined Speak Now Georgia, along with other patients, caregivers and concerned citizens because we believe that Georgia patients deserve better. And I urge you to act now. Visit [www.SpeakNow-Georgia.org](http://www.SpeakNow-Georgia.org), contact your state legislators and sign the petition to change this ridiculous law.

Cancer doesn't wait, and neither should Georgia.

Brenda Madison is an advocate for Speak Now Georgia. She lives in Abbeville, Ga.