

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing patients, medical researchers, providers, survivors and their families, we strongly urge you to include H.R. 913, *the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act*, among the healthcare priorities Congress addresses this spring as the expiration of some healthcare extenders approaches. As organizations that value patient access to clinical trials, we are pleased to endorse this legislation, introduced by Representative Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) and Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), which would ensure states cover routine care costs of participation in an approved clinical trial for Medicaid enrollees with life-threatening conditions.

Medicaid insures nearly one-fifth of the US population and is the only major payer that is not required by federal law to cover routine costs associated with participation in clinical trials. This coverage is already assured for Medicare beneficiaries and for patients with private health insurance. Although eleven states require their Medicaid programs to cover these costs, there are still as many as 42.2 million Medicaid patients that are potentially without this needed coverage.

Routine costs include the non-experimental costs of treating a patient who is participating in a clinical trial, such as the cost of physician visits or laboratory tests. These costs are part of standard care and would be incurred regardless of whether a patient participates in a clinical trial. The cost of any investigative device or drug would continue to be covered by the trial sponsor. As such, this coverage would have little to no impact on the overall cost of care to Medicaid programs.

Importantly, clinical trials often provide patients with the best—perhaps only—treatment option for their condition. Without the guarantee of coverage, however, many Medicaid beneficiaries do not have the latest technological and scientific advancements as a treatment option.

Robust clinical trial participation improves the quality of medical research. Medicaid serves many demographics, including ethnic minorities, women, and children that are underrepresented in current clinical trial enrollment. Lack of participation in clinical trials from the Medicaid population means these patients are being excluded from potentially life-saving trials and are not reflected in the outcome of the clinical research. Increased access to clinical trial participation for Medicaid enrollees helps ensure medical research results more accurately capture and reflect the populations of this country.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue. We continue to urge others in Congress to support this legislation and are eager to help you advance the *CLINICAL TREATMENT Act*.

Sincerely,

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation
African Services Committee
American Association for Cancer Research
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Society for Radiation Oncology
The Arizona Clinical Oncology Society
Asian Services in Action, Inc.
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Association of Northern California Oncologists
Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses
The Blue Hat Foundation
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Colon Cancer Coalition
Colon Cancer Stars
COLONTOWN, a patient community supported by the PALTOWN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Connecticut Oncology Association
Deadliest Cancers Coalition
Delaware Society for Clinical Oncology
Denali Oncology Group
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Empire State Hematology & Oncology Society
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Friends of Cancer Research
Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Hep Free Hawaii

Idaho Society of Clinical Oncology
Illinois Medical Oncology Society
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC
Indiana Oncology Society
International Myeloma Foundation
Iowa Oncology Society
Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology
Kentucky Association of Medical Oncology
Kiel Colon Cancer Foundation
Livestrong
Louisiana Oncology Society
Lung Cancer Alliance
LUNgevity Foundation
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Maryland/D.C. Society of Clinical Oncology
Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncology
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, Inc.
Medical Oncology Society of New Jersey
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology
Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology
Mississippi Oncology Society
Missouri Oncology Society
Montana State Oncology Society
National Brain Tumor Society
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match
National Organization for Women
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Nebraska Oncology Society
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nevada Oncology Society
North Carolina Oncology Association
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society
NothingPink
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology
Oncology Nursing Society
Oregon Society of Medical Oncology
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Puerto Rico Hematology and Medical Oncology Association
Research Advocacy Network
Rocky Mountain Oncology Society
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Sarcoma Foundation of America
SCAD Alliance
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
South Carolina Oncology Society
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Tennessee Oncology Practice Society
Texas Society of Clinical Oncology
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Triage Cancer
Virginia Association of Hematologists and Oncologists
Washington State Medical Oncology Society
West Virginia Oncology Society
Wisconsin Association of Hematology and Oncology
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease