



Cancer Advocacy In Louisiana

**Julie Stokes,
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Advocacy is the Bridge



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Key Advocacy Areas

- Prevention
- Early Detection
- Treatment
- Access to Treatment
- Survivorship

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2018 Louisiana Regular Session

- **LA Act 494** – 3D Mammography
- **LA Act 461** – Scans for Bilateral Mastectomy Patients
- **LA Act 593** – Licensure of Genetic Counselors
- **LA Act 580** (Sen Troy Carter) – The Carter-Stokes Act
- **HB689** – Fertility Preservation
- **HB470** – Louisiana Medical Research Fund

2019 Louisiana Regular Session

- **LA Act 120** – Step Therapy prohibited on stage four, metastatic, advanced cancer patients
- **LA Act 119** – Coverage of diagnostic scans at same level as screening mammograms
- **LA Act 119** – *Amended to include restoration of both breasts when bilateral mastectomy was elected
- **LA Act 118** – Coverage of genetic testing before the presence of cancer

2020 Louisiana Regular Session

LA Act 222 (Talbot)

- Three months of prescribed therapy targeting a specific genetic mutation,
- Regardless of the exact location of the occurrence of the cancer in the patient's body.
- And to continue that beyond the 3-month period if that therapy is clinically beneficial to the patient

2021 Louisiana Regular Session

- **LA Act 43** – Biomarker Testing to facilitate precision medicine. Covers FDA Approved Tests for tumor mutation testing, next generation sequencing, hereditary germline mutation testing, pharmacogenomic testing, whole exome & genome sequencing.
- **LA Act 45** – Updates Mammography Standards to those of the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

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2022 Louisiana Regular Session

LA Act 412

Coverage for Biomarker Testing in Louisiana

- When the test is a companion ... labeled for FDA usage
- When a test is covered by CMS national and local coverage determinations, or
- When supported by clinical practice guidelines such as those of NCCN or ASCO

2022 Louisiana Regular Session, Cont.

- **LA Act 229** – Clarifies 2020 Precision Medicine Legislation to include treatments approved by the FDA for the treatment of cancer with the specific genetic mutation, even if a different tumor type
- **LA Act 501** – Provides private pay and Medicaid coverage for genetic testing for critically ill infants with no diagnosis in the NICU setting.

2022 Louisiana Regular Session, Cont.

- **SR 77** – Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study and make recommendations on best practices for coordinating services for patients with cancer.
- **HB 537** - Requires fertility preservation services be covered by health insurance plans in the state of Louisiana. Excluded Medicaid and Office of Group Benefits.

2023 Louisiana Regular Session

- Biomarker Testing Expansion
- Fertility Preservation for Young Adult Patients
- Bone Marrow Donation
- The Cancer Patient's Right to Prompt Coverage
 - 36 Hour Prior Authorization Limit
 - PET Scans when recommended by standards
 - Peer to Peer study prohibition for recommended treatment
 - Cancer Treatments for Rehab, SNF, LTAC inpatients

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Survivor's Cancer Action Network

- Private Network for Patients & Survivors
- Mental Health Services
- Mentor Training and Matching
- Nonclinical Navigation
- Purpose Finding for Survivors
- Classes and Help!

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Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Julie Stokes has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

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