

State Advocacy Update

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Why State Advocacy?

- Legislative action at the state level is increasingly shaping cancer care and the practice of oncology.
- A law enacted in one state can create a model for other states.
- States serve as incubators for federal policymaking.

State Advocacy Engagement and Activity

- Prior Authorization
- Step Therapy
- PBMs
- Copay Accumulators
- Fertility Preservation
- Drug Affordability Boards/Upper Payment Limits



Dr. Marc Nuttall, Utah Society President, with Senator Bramble at a copay accumulator bill press event

VAHO/ASCO Engagement: 2023 Session

- **Prior Authorization (HB 1471/SB 1261)** – requires each health insurance carrier to establish and maintain an electronic prior authorization process (Enacted)
- **Fertility Preservation (HB 2366/HB 1876)** –requiring coverage of fertility preservation services for patients with cancer and for firefighters respectively (Both Failed)
- **Short Term Limited Duration Plans (SB 1336)** - would allow for short term limited duration health insurance plans to be renewed for up to 36 months (Failed)

Virginia Elections: What to Watch

- All House and Senate members are up for election in November, many in new districts
- We expect an estimated 50% turnover in the House and Senate
 - Educating newly elected members about cancer care will be important
- The balance of the Legislature could change
 - Democrats control the Senate, Republicans control the House and Governor's mansion
 - Political breakdown post-election will determine committee leadership

Virginia's 2024 Legislative Session

- Session begins January 10, 2024
- Virginia has speedy legislative sessions – 60 days in even-numbered years and 45 days in odd-numbered years
- Virginia operates under a two-year budget cycle
 - Initially adopted in even-numbered years and amended in odd-numbered years – 2024 will be a budget year

Looking Ahead to 2024

- **Non-medical switching legislation** – would prevent a plan from requiring a patient to switch to a cheaper drug when they're already stable on their current prescription
- **Out-of-Pocket costs legislation** – would cap out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs

Working with State Affiliates

- State Affiliates are our partners in state-level advocacy
- ASCO supports State Affiliates by:
 - Providing state advocacy toolkits and policy statements
 - Analyzing state legislation
 - Drafting comment letters
 - Preparing testimony for state hearings and meetings
 - Coordinating grassroots alerts through the State ACT Network

Why testify at a committee hearing?



Dr. Joseph Muscato, MD, FACP, testifies against a bill that would have undone Missouri's Medicaid Expansion efforts.

- Testifying at a public hearing is one of the most effective ways to engage with your state policymakers.
- It is crucial for lawmakers who rely on input from constituents for policy decision making.
- Compelling testimony can spark important debate and sway legislators who are on the fence.
- As a cancer care professional who interacts with your lawmakers' constituents, you are in a unique position to share stories that can influence the outcome of legislation.

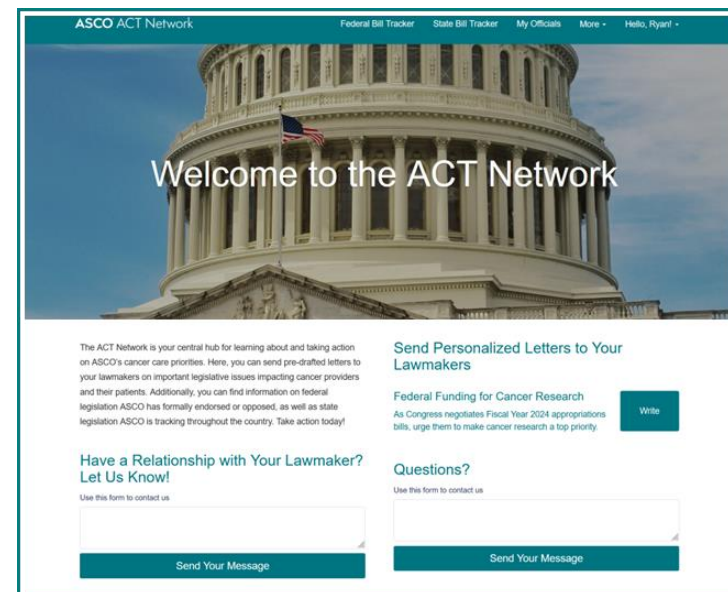
ASCO Advocacy: Get Involved!

ASCO[®] ACT Network

- Action alerts with ASCO position on key bills
- Provides draft messages you can personalize and send to your lawmakers
- Provide link to ACT Network in society newsletters
- Visit www.asco.org/ACTNetwork

Advocacy at Home

- Meet with your lawmakers while they are back in the state or district
- Contact grassroots@asco.org to participate



Questions?

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