

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