

May 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, H-230  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Democratic Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations, representing patients, medical researchers, physicians, survivors and their families, are pleased that important policies to increase diversity in clinical trials were included in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century [Cures 2.0 concept paper](#) recently released by Representatives Diana DeGette and Fred Upton. We encourage Congress to include proposals from Title IV of the Cures 2.0 concept paper in upcoming legislation to further address the COVID-19 public health crisis. These clinical trials policies are bipartisan, well vetted, and broadly supported in the community, leaving no reason for delay.

The COVID-19 public health crisis has highlighted existing disparities in our nation's health care system. Clinical trials are an essential part of our health care delivery system. Despite the importance of diversity in clinical trials, racial and ethnic minorities, women, children, and rural populations remain vastly underrepresented in trials across the country. Diverse populations must be represented in clinical trials to help address inclusion issues throughout the research and delivery of treatments, and to ensure patient access to high-quality healthcare.

Clinical trials often provide the best treatment option for patients with life-threatening conditions and lack of coverage for routine care costs should not be a barrier to enrollment. As a result of the current public health crisis, families across the country are facing greater financial strain, making the need to ensure this barrier is not limiting patient access to clinical trials even more urgent.

Specifically, we urge leadership to include policy to provide Medicaid coverage of the routine care costs of clinical trials participation for patients with life-threatening conditions in every state. This critical protection is championed by Representatives Ben Ray Lujan and Gus Bilirakis in the *CLINICAL TREATMENT Act* (H.R. 913).

Additionally, we support recommendations in the Cures 2.0 concept paper to improve demographic data, increase awareness and understanding of importance of trials, make clinicaltrials.gov more user friendly, and improve coordination between the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

We appreciate your commitment to solutions as our nation faces new challenges. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Alabama Cancer Congress  
Alliance for Patient Access  
American Cancer Society: Cancer Action Network  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Children's Cancer Cause  
Coalition for Clinical Trials Awareness  
Deadliest Cancers Coalition  
Delaware Society for Clinical Oncology  
Dermatology Nurse' Association  
Empire State Hematology & Oncology Society  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
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 Society of Clinical Oncology  
HealthyWomen  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Illinois Medical Oncology Society  
Impetus - Let's Get Started LLC  
Indiana Oncology Society  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Iowa Oncology Society  
Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology  
Kiel Colon Cancer Foundation  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Livestrong  
Louisiana Oncology Society  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncology  
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, Inc.  
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 Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match  
National Medical Association  
Nebraska Oncology Society  
Nevada Oncology Society  
North Carolina Oncology Association  
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society  
Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology  
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Rocky Mountain Oncology Society  
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists  
Solve ME/CFS Initiative  
South Carolina Oncology Society  
Susan G. Komen  
Tennessee Oncology Practice Society (TOPS)  
Texas Society of Clinical Oncology  
The Arizona Clinical Oncology Society  
The Blue Hat Foundation  
The Oncology Nursing Society  
Triage Cancer  
UsAgainstAlzheimer's  
Virginia Association of Hematologists and Oncologists  
Washington Colon Cancer Stars  
Watts HealthCare Corporation  
West Virginia Oncology Society  
Wisconsin Association of Hematology and Oncology  
WomenAgainstAlzheimer's  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease