

October 9, 2020

The Honorable Richard Burr
U.S. Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
U.S. Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr and Senator Cardin,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing patients, medical researchers, providers, survivors and their families, thank you for introducing S. 4742, the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act. As organizations that value patient access to clinical trials, we are pleased to endorse your legislation, which would ensure states cover routine care costs of participation in an approved clinical trial for Medicaid enrollees with life-threatening conditions.

Medicaid insures 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 fifteen states plus Washington, D.C. require their Medicaid programs to cover these costs, there are still as many as 41.6 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 and women, 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 leadership on this issue. We urge the Finance Committee to work with you to swiftly move this legislation and are eager to help you in that goal.

Sincerely,

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

African Services Committee

Alabama Cancer Congress

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 & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
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 Cancer Cause
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

ECAN Esophageal Cancer Action Network
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
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 Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
South Carolina Oncology Society
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Susan G. Komen
Tennessee Oncology Practice Society
Texas Society of Clinical Oncology
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Triage Cancer
UsAgaisntAlzheimer's
Virginia Association of Hematologists and Oncologists
Washington State Colon Cancer Stars
Washington State Medical Oncology Society
West Virginia Oncology Society
Wisconsin Association of Hematology and Oncology
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease