



Advocacy Tactics: Writing to Your Legislator

Write a Letter

Send your Representative and/or Senators a letter asking him or her to co-sponsor the CCCIA. You can send an e-mail very quickly by visiting our Action Center at www.canceradvocacy.org and clicking on **Take Action** and **Action Center**. Or visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> to find their office addresses and e-mail addresses. Most legislators now require constituents to send e-mails via a web form on their websites. *Note:* traditional mail or “snail mail” is very slow because all deliveries must now be screened by security.

Sample E-Mail Letter

Dear [Name]:

I am a [cancer survivor] and I live in [City, location]. I am writing to ask you to support an issue of particular concern to me – care planning for people with cancer – by becoming a co-sponsor of S. 1773/H.R. 1844, the Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act (CCCIA).

Nearly 12 million Americans are surviving a cancer diagnosis, and another 1.5 million will be diagnosed in the coming year. They deserve quality care that is coordinated and comprehensive, and there is substantial evidence that many are not receiving it.

One significant way to improve cancer care is to support a system of planning and coordination that begins at diagnosis and continues beyond treatment into survivorship. The CCCIA would encourage doctors to develop and explain the plans for treatment so that patients and families can understand the goal(s) and options available, possible immediate and long-term effects and how they will be managed, and resources for addressing psychosocial issues if necessary. The bill also promotes follow-up care plans after treatment to help patients and their future healthcare providers know what should be monitored. Most cancer survivors and their primary care physicians are not aware of these issues, yet late effects of cancer treatment can include numerous health complications. Many cancer survivors are at higher risk for such problems as premature osteoporosis, anxiety, depression, and the development of second cancers.

[Personal remark about your own experience:

My experience with cancer would have been greatly improved by better management of my care from the beginning. Instead, I experienced a lot of avoidable consequences – including insufficient information to make informed decisions, unnecessary treatments and tests, and missed opportunities to monitor my health risks – because there was no comprehensive, coordinated plan for my care.]

As your constituent, I urge you continue that work by becoming a lead co-sponsor of **S. 1773/H.R. 1844, The Comprehensive Cancer Care Improvement Act.**

Thank you,

[Your Name and Address]

For more information, visit NCCS's Take Action center at <http://www.canceradvocacy.org/get-involved/> or contact us at advocacy@canceradvocacy.org or 301.562.2772.