

# Make a PACT with Cancer Patients

**From: The Honorable Lois Capps**

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**Bill: H.R. 2846**

**Date: 2/26/2016**

## Make a PACT with Cancer Patients

Support the Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment (PACT) Act

Dear Colleague:

On Wednesday, I joined with much of the cancer advocacy and research community to say goodbye to a friend and champion: Ellen Stovall. Ellen, a longtime cancer survivorship advocate and former president and chief executive of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, passed away last month at the age of 69. She was a three-time cancer survivor, and was nationally known among physicians, legislators, and policymakers as one of the country's most effective advocates for cancer survivors.

For decades, Ellen had been an advocate for better cancer care. Indeed, that is how we met. She knew from personal experience how important it is for patients to be engaged in their care; but she also knew how many patients were not getting that opportunity. Many newly diagnosed individuals and those living with cancer will receive the best that the American health care system has to offer. However, even those who receive outstanding care report gaps in the cancer care system. Most patients do not receive written plans explaining the diagnosis, prognosis, treatments and expected symptoms, leaving patients to navigate the complexities of a cancer diagnosis without guidance. As someone who battled cancer three times, Ellen understood the importance of high quality cancer care delivery and coordination.

In this video, she discusses her commitment to filling the gaps in cancer care for all those with a devastating diagnosis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zEqG2I8TuA>

That is why we introduced **HR 2846: The Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment (PACT) Act**. The PACT Act fulfills this need by providing Medicare beneficiaries access to a written roadmap for treatment developed in consultation by both the patient and provider. The treatment roadmap would lay out a plan to address both the cancer and the side-effects of treatment. Care planning encourages important provider-patient discussions where shared decisions are made about how to move forward based both on medical evidence and patient wishes.

This cancer care planning document is in line with recommendations from the Institute of Medicine, and is supported by 53 cancer patient groups, cancer centers, and provider

organizations, including: members of the Commission on Cancer consortium, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the LIVESTRONG Foundation, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Cancer Support Community.

While Ellen is gone, her charge to us remains—improve cancer care. We ask you to join us in honoring Ellen Stovall’s tremendous contributions to cancer survivorship and the delivery of high quality, coordinated care, by supporting this commonsense measure.

Sincerely,

**LOIS CAPPS**

Member of Congress

**CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

Member of Congress