Staging Your Impact: Meeting with Policymakers

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Staging Your Impact

- Overview of Congress
- The CCPC Act
- Pre-Existing Conditions Protections
- The Ask
- Role Play Exercise
How Congress Works
It Doesn’t!!
• 1 Representative per district
• Based on population
• 435 voting members
• 6 non-voting delegates (including DC and PR)
• 2-year terms

• 2 Senators per state
• 100 total
• 6-year terms
• One third of seats up for election every two years
116th Congress

House of Representatives
- 435 Representatives
  - 235 Democrats
  - 198 Democrats
  - 2 Vacant seats
  - 6 Nonvoting members (DC, PR)

Senate
- 100 Senators
  - 53 Republicans
  - 45 Democrats
  - 2 Independents
How a Bill (Usually) Becomes a Law

1. Introduced in committee
2. Committee* hearings
   • Expert testimony
   • Advocacy organizations
3. Committee* mark-up
   • Amendments
4. Committee* votes
5. Full chamber for floor vote

*NCCS
NATIONAL COALITION FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

*or subcommittee
The Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act

- Bipartisan legislation introduced in 2018
- Will be re-introduced by Congressmen Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Buddy Carter (R-GA) late summer/early fall
- Supported by more than 30 patient and provider groups and nearly 20 cancer centers
- Seeking Senate champions to introduce companion legislation
The CCPC Act would establish a new Medicare service for cancer care planning

• At diagnosis
• When there is a change in the treatment plan
• At the completion of treatment (survivorship care plan)
The CCPC Act will help cancer patients by supplying them a written plan or roadmap.

The CCPC Act will promote shared decision-making between patients and their cancer care teams.

The CCPC Act will empower patients with information necessary to help manage and coordinate their care.
Endorsing Organizations and Cancer Centers

American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Association of Oncology Social Work
Cancer Legal Resource Center
Cancer Support Community
College of American Pathologists
Colon Cancer Alliance
Critical Mass
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association
International Myeloma Foundation
Lacuna Loft
LIVESTRONG
Lung Cancer Alliance
LUNGevity Foundation
Lymphoma Research Foundation
National Brain Tumor Society
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Stupid Cancer
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Triage Cancer
West Virginia Oncology Society
Zero Prostate Cancer
City of Hope National Medical Center
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center at NYU Langone
Loma Linda University Cancer Center
Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Moffitt Cancer Center
Norris Cotton Cancer Center
Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
Stanford Cancer Institute
UC Davis Cancer Center
The University of Kansas Cancer Center
The University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
The University of Virginia Cancer Center
Pre-Existing Conditions Protections

- ACA’s patient protections are critical for cancer survivors
  - Pre-existing condition protections
  - Annual out-of-pocket maximums
  - No lifetime limits
- Expanded access to Medicaid
- “Junk” plans do not offer adequate coverage for people with serious health needs
- Healthier consumers may choose lower-cost plans, taking them out of the individual market risk pool
- Alternative proposals to “protect” pre-existing conditions are NOT adequate.
The Meeting

• Brief introductions
  • Name, city, connection to cancer, NCCS advocate
• Purpose of the meeting
  • We are here to talk about the CCPC Act and ACA patient protections
• Share your story
• Ask if they will cosponsor the CCPC Act
Legislative Visit Do’s and Don’ts

• Do’s
  • Be punctual
  • Allow time to get through security
  • Introduce yourself with a handshake, a smile, your full name, and where you are from in their district
  • Share your story, make it personal
  • Be courteous and friendly to everyone in the office
  • Ask the Representative’s position and why
  • Follow up with a “thank you” by email
Legislative Visit Do’s and Don’ts

• Don’ts
  • Don’t overload the Congressional visit with too many issues or too much paper
  • Don’t expect your Representative, or their staff, to be a specialist on the issue
  • Don’t be afraid to say, “I don’t know,” to a question asked of you – you can follow up with a response
  • Don’t be offended if a legislator is unable to meet and requests that you meet with his/her staff
  • Don’t confront, threaten, pressure, or beg

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After the Meeting

• Tweet to thank the member for meeting and re-iterate the ask
• Send thank you emails – include responses to questions
• Follow-up with staff on action items
• Complete online Hill Day Survey
• Following Member action, thank Member and staff
Maintaining Long-term Relationships

- Sign up for legislator’s email updates and follow on social media
- Check in with staff regularly
- Serve as a resource on cancer issues
- Invite to local cancer community events in hometown
- Thank for co-sponsoring legislation
- Schedule in-district meetings
- Attend town hall meetings
Congressional Meeting
Role Play!
Table 1: Advocates from FL, IL, PR
Table 2: Advocates from TX and HI
Table 3: Advocates from OH, DC, NC
Table 4: Advocates from GA
Table 5: Advocates from IN
Table 6: Advocates from MI, NY, WA
Table 7: Advocates from CA, MA, ME
Table 8: Advocates from AL, CT, SD, WV
Table 9: Advocates from AZ, MD, PA
Table 10: Advocates from NJ and VA