

November 26, 2018

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis and Representative Lujan,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing patients, medical researchers, providers, survivors and their families, thank you for introducing H.R. 6836, 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 nearly 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 twelve states require their Medicaid programs to cover these costs, there are still as many as 42.2 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, 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 others in Congress to support your legislation and are eager to help you advance the *CLINICAL TREATMENT Act*.

Sincerely,

African Services Committee  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association  
American Medical Association  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
The Arizona Clinical Oncology Society  
Asian Services Action, Inc.  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
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 Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Colon Cancer Coalition  
Colon Cancer Stars  
COLONTOWN, a patient community supported by the PALTOWN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
Colorectal Cancer Alliance  
Denali Oncology Group  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Empire State Hematology & Oncology Society  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Illinois Medical Oncology Society  
Indiana Oncology Society  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Iowa Oncology Society  
Kansas Society of Clinical Oncology  
Kentucky Association of Medical Oncology  
Kiel Colon Cancer Foundation  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Livestrong  
Louisiana Oncology Society  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Medical Oncology Society of New Jersey  
Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology  
Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology  
Missouri Oncology Society  
Montana State Oncology Society  
National Brain Tumor Society  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Patient Advocate Foundation

Nebraska Oncology Society  
Nevada Oncology Society  
North Carolina Oncology Association  
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society  
NothingPink  
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Research Advocacy Network  
Rocky Mountain Oncology Society  
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)  
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists  
South Carolina Oncology Society  
Tennessee Oncology Practice Society  
Texas Society of Clinical Oncology  
Triage Cancer  
Virginia Association of Hematologists and Oncologists  
The Women's Zionist Organization of America  
West Virginia Oncology Society  
Wisconsin Association of Hematology and Oncology