LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY®
fighting blood cancers

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Memorandum in Support
S.1976 (Robach) /A.558 (Cusick)
Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Research, Education and Treatment Program

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) supports S.1976/A.558, introduced by Senator Robach and Assemblyman Cusick, which would establish a Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Research, Education and Treatment Program within the State Department of Health.

The Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Research, Education and Treatment Program would promote and fund research, education and treatment programs designed to assist those diagnosed with blood cancer in New York State. Additionally, this legislation would place a "check-off box" on both individual and corporate income tax returns to allow New Yorkers to contribute to the support of this important program.

An estimated 1,012,533 people in the US are living with, or are in remission from, leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma and another 140,310 more will be diagnosed this year. New cases of these blood cancers account for 9% of the new cancer cases diagnosed in the US. **In New York every year, an estimated 6,710 residents will be diagnosed with a blood cancer and approximately 3,120 will die from it.** Furthermore, Leukemia is still the number one cause of death from disease for all children under the age of fifteen.

Unlike other cancers, there are not ways to prevent or early diagnose for blood cancers through routine screening tests. For this reason, LLS is focused on funding cutting edge research for effective treatments for blood cancer with the ultimate goal of finding a cure. As a result programs like the one being proposed by this bill are critical to raise needed funds for research and to educate blood cancer patients on the availability of new and effective treatments.

Great strides have been made in research around blood cancer and such advances have significantly increased the survival rate in patients suffering from Leukemia. Great strides have been made over the last 40 years in treatment for Leukemia. However, there are still critical areas of unmet need. For example, while 5 year survival rates for Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) are now above 90 percent, 5 year survival rates for adult Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) patients remains below 30 percent. Education and Research in these critical areas of unmet need will supplement the kind of research that LLS and organizations like ours are funding in order to raise survivorship in all types of blood cancers.

State and public investment in blood cancer research, education and treatment will improve the health and wellbeing of cancer patients. **The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society urges you to support and pass S.1976/A.558 which will save lives by funding research and increasing access to the best treatments for New Yorkers diagnosed with a blood cancer.**

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