

## LLS 2017 Federal Legislative Priorities

### Protecting Access to Quality, Affordable Care

As Congress and the Trump Administration consider changes to the Affordable Care Act, LLS is working to ensure that federal healthcare rules continue to protect cancer patients. LLS works to advance policies that accomplish the following goals:

- **Guarantee Access** – Cancer patients must continue to have the right to purchase quality, affordable health insurance to help them access the care they need.
- **Promote Affordability** – Policymakers must continue to provide minimum quality standards that protect patients from being locked out of necessary treatment due to barebones coverage.
- **Ensure Quality** – Premium assistance and cost-sharing limits that allow a cancer patient to use their coverage must be improved.
- **Provide Stability** – Policymakers must provide cancer patients with the peace of mind that every patient will have access to affordable, quality coverage, even if existing or future policymakers do not act.

### Removing Barriers between Patients & Cancer Therapy

- **Reducing Out-of-Pocket Costs for Medicare Patients** – LLS advocates for protections against prohibitive patient out-of-pocket costs for life-saving prescription medications. LLS supports legislation to allow Medicare Part D beneficiaries to pay a flat, reasonable copay for essential medications with no less-costly alternatives. LLS also supports limiting the total annual out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare patients with high treatment costs. Legislation advancing these policies will be introduced soon.
- **Oral Parity for Anti-Cancer Drugs** – LLS supports the Cancer Drug Parity Act, which would promote fairness and innovation by preventing insurance plans from requiring patients to pay significantly more out-of-pocket for anti-cancer drugs based simply on how they are administered. This bill has been introduced in the House (HR 1409), and LLS expects a bipartisan Senate version of the bill in the next several weeks.

### Accelerating New Therapies & Cures for Patients

- **Patient Engagement in Drug Development & Approval** – LLS advocates for improvements that can speed the development and approval of safe and effective treatment options for blood cancer patients. LLS is working to secure Congressional approval of FDA user fee legislation that will provide FDA the resources necessary to fulfil its commitment to amplify the voice of patients throughout the development and approval processes.
- **Expanded Access Reform** – LLS supports targeted improvements to the FDA's expanded access program, which helps facilitate patient access to investigational drugs when they have no other treatment options. LLS opposes legislation, such as the Right to Try Act (HR 878/S 204), that does not address the core impediments for patients seeking to access to these experimental therapies.