

LLS 2016 Federal Legislative Priorities

Accelerating New Therapies & Cures for Patients

- **FDA & NIH Reform** – This reform initiative will make key improvements that can speed the development of safe and effective treatment options for blood cancer patients. The House-passed 21st Century Cures Act package (HR 6) included policy proposals developed by LLS, including reforms promoting patient engagement earlier in the drug development process. The Senate will produce companion legislation in spring 2016, and leaders intend to send a final package to the President by the end of the year. For more detailed information, LLS has additional materials describing our work and specific requests related to this initiative.
- **Expanded Access Reform** – LLS supports necessary improvements to the FDA’s expanded access program, which is intended to help facilitate patient access to investigational drugs when they have no other treatment options. HR 909 and S 1883 would increase transparency to help patients and providers navigate this complex program. Key reforms from these bills were included in HR 6.

Promoting Access to Quality, Affordable Care

- **Out-of-Pocket Rx Costs**
 - Rx “Specialty Tier” Protections – LLS is advocating for legal protections to put reasonable limitations on patient out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications. HR 1600 led by Reps. McKinley (R-WV) and Capps (D-CA) would establish this important protection in federally-regulated plans outside of Medicare. HR 2624 and S 1488 would accomplish the same goal in Medicare Part D.
 - Oral Therapy Parity – LLS is pushing for federal legislation that 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. Rep. Lance (R-NJ) and Sen. Kirk (R-IL) have introduced bipartisan legislation (HR 2739 and S 1566, respectively) to advance this important protection for cancer patients.
- **Health Marketplace Oversight**
 - Discrimination – LLS is supporting strong enforcement of rules that prevent health insurers from designing plan coverage in order to deter blood cancer patients from joining their plan or depriving patients who are already enrolled.
 - Network Adequacy – LLS is advocating to strengthen the federal and state standards that determine whether an insurance plan’s number and type of health providers are sufficient to ensure patients have timely access to the care they need. LLS is also working to guarantee patient access to necessary specialists, even if they are out-of-network.
 - Transparency – LLS is working to provide blood cancer patients with all the information they need to make a decision on which plan is right for them—including which drugs are covered, how much patients have to pay out of pocket for various services, and which providers are participating in the plan.