

2018 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Protecting Access to Quality, Affordable Care

As Congress and the Trump Administration consider changes to the individual insurance market and the Medicaid program, 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.

To advance these principles, LLS supports stable, continued funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Fair Care Act (S. 2494) to protect people with pre-existing conditions from discrimination and premium increases, and continues to advocate for policies like individual market reinsurance that would lower premiums and stabilize the individual insurance market. At the same time, LLS opposes proposals that would threaten these principles, including changes that would erode patient protections for patients with any type of insurance, destabilize the individual insurance market, and threaten access to the vulnerable patients who rely on Medicaid.

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 the RxCAP Act (S. 1347), which would cap the total annual out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare patients with high treatment costs. 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 reforms that would require Medicare Part D plans to share drug manufacturer rebates directly with the patients taking a medication.
- **Parity for Cancer Drug Cost-Sharing** – LLS supports the Cancer Drug Parity Act (H.R. 1409), which would promote fairness and innovation by preventing commercial insurance plans from requiring patients to pay significantly more out-of-pocket for anti-cancer drugs based simply on how they are administered. 43 states have enacted this reform for state-regulated commercial insurance plans, and this solution has successfully lowered out-of-pocket costs for the affected patients without increasing costs for insurance companies.

Accelerating New Therapies & Cures for Patients

- **Increasing Federal Investments in Cancer Research** – As an organization that has funded more than \$1.2 billion in cancer research, LLS knows firsthand the importance of funding research to one day achieve a world without blood cancers. LLS advocates for robust federal investments for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Cancer Institute (NCI) to advance efforts to improve cancer detection, diagnosis, and survivorship. LLS also supports the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program’s (CDMRP) Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) at the Department of Defense, which provides important resources for innovative blood cancer research to support Service members, their families, and the American public.
- **Improving Treatments and Survivorship for Pediatric Cancer** – LLS supports the Childhood Cancer STAR Act (H.R. 820/S. 292), the most comprehensive childhood cancer bill before Congress. This legislation would support childhood cancer research by boosting pediatric cancer efforts at the NCI, unlock new insights into childhood cancer by improving tracking and reporting, and improve the quality of life for childhood cancer survivors by actively tracking late effects of their disease and treatments – including assessments of how the healthcare system meets the ongoing needs survivors may face.
- **Patient Engagement in Drug Development & Approval** – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including the Oncology Center of Excellence (OCE) authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act, plays a critical role in fostering the development of new cancer treatments. LLS advocates for a strong, fully-funded FDA while also supporting improvements to FDA rules that can speed the development and approval of safe and effective treatment options for blood cancer patients.
- **Patient Access to Investigational Treatments** – Wherever possible, LLS believes the use of an investigational treatment by a patient as part of a clinical trial is preferable to seeking experimental therapies through other means. However, LLS recognizes that there are circumstances in which patients with serious or life-threatening conditions are not eligible for a clinical trial or have exhausted all available treatments and may seek access to investigational therapies outside of a clinical trial setting. LLS supports targeted improvements to the FDA’s expanded access program, which helps facilitate access to investigational drugs while maintaining important patient protections.

Making the Cost of Cancer Care More Sustainable

The cost of cancer care is rising at an alarming rate, with a growing portion of those costs being shifted onto patients who already face tremendous medical and financial burdens. LLS has identified an expansive [list of opportunities for policymakers](#) to better align financial incentives and reward high-value care that lowers costs. LLS is working to advance meaningful policy reforms that would modernize drug payments and provider reimbursements to reward value and positive patient outcomes. LLS also supports FDA reforms that promote competition in the off-patent drug market and prevent drug makers from abusing the drug patent rules to avoid price competition. To learn more, please visit lls.org/cancercost.