October 31, 2018

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis  
United States House of Representatives  
212 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
United States House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis and Representative Luján:

On behalf of the nearly 1.3 million Americans living with a blood cancer diagnosis, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is proud to support H.R. 6836, the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act. This legislation will guarantee coverage of routine care costs associated with participating in an approved clinical trial for Medicaid enrollees with a life-threatening condition. As you know, Medicaid, which insures nearly one-fifth of the U.S. population, is the last major payer that is not required to provide coverage for routine costs of clinical trial participation. Taking part in a clinical trial can be the best treatment option for some blood cancer patients, and this legislation will help alleviate a critical financial barrier that limits patient participation in clinical trials.

LLS is the world’s largest voluntary health organization dedicated to fighting blood cancer. Our mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Since 1949, LLS has invested more than $1.2 billion in groundbreaking research, funding nearly all of today’s most promising advances. LLS is changing the landscape of cancer with more than 300 active research projects that explore different avenues of new and adventurous research. To help patients participate in the research process, LLS offers personalized clinical trial navigation services through LLS’s Clinical Trial Support Center, which guides patients through the entire clinical trial process. LLS is also the leading source of free, highly specialized blood cancer information, education and support for patients, survivors, families and healthcare professionals.

Every day, scientists are learning more about the genetic underpinnings of cancer and developing new effective and precisely targeted therapies that are saving lives. Though we are seeing remarkable progress in advancing treatments for cancer, our work is not done. More than one-third of blood cancer patients still do not survive five years after their diagnosis. That is why making clinical trials more accessible to patients is so vital for the fight against cancer. The importance of clinical trials cannot be overstated, as virtually all of today’s standard treatments for cancer are based on previous clinical trials.

Thank you again for your leadership on behalf of blood cancer patients and survivors. We look forward to working with you to move the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act forward. Please contact Sarah Milberg, Senior Manager of Federal Affairs, at sarah.milberg@lls.org or 202.969.1809 with any questions about this or any issueing impacting the blood cancer community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gwen Nichols, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society