



MA & ME Cancer Advocacy Call November 18, 2020

Massachusetts: Brock, Melissa, Jenny, Dana, JoJo, Kate, Marisa, Emily, Christine, Annette, Carole S, Dan, Tim, & Carol C

AGENDA

- **Welcome**
- **Updates and Action Items**
- **Federal Lame Duck Expectations**
- **State Teams Discussion:**
 - **2020 State Election Impacts**
 - **Other State Updates**



Welcome everyone to the call.

REMIND Melissa to record the call and MUTE lines if she doesn't. 😊


Remind participants they can use the chat or they can unmute on the screen. If on the phone it's *6 to unmute their line.

Review the agenda

We will be splitting into state teams tonight. Due to our technical issues last month, we're asking you to please test the chat now by saying hi! We are also asking that you once again be patient with the technology. It will be MUCH smoother if you have called in via your computer or tablet. For those of you that are on the phone, you will have to hang up when we split, and call in to the room via a different number. Melissa will provide those numbers right before we split, so here's your warning to get something to write with and on. If she doesn't, please speak up and remind her!

Updates & Action

- **Ambassador Action Center**
- **December Meeting**
- **November 19th:**
 - Great American Smoke Out
 - Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day



Ambassador Action Center:

- Shout out to Angel, Brock, Dan, Dana, Jenny, & Steve in Massachusetts for logging a total of 26 actions for a total of 375 points in the Ambassador Action Center since our October call, which was only 3 weeks ago.
- While it's only been 21 days since our last call, we hoped there might be more actions, especially given the focus of last month and the post election actions we asked everyone to take. As a reminder, we'd love to have you reach out to your newly elected or re-elected lawmakers with your state's ACS CAN priority sheet and congratulate them on their win. If you're looking for things you can say, check out the notes from the October call or reach out to me, Mikala, Hilary, or Melissa.
- Don't have access to the Ambassador Action Center? Email Melissa (melissa.stacy@cancer.org) and she'll hook you up!

December Meeting Date and Topic: Our next volunteer meeting will be December 16 at 7pm. We'll be sharing updates, have a special guest speaker to walk through an exciting new tool around virtual fundraising, and then splitting into teams for state specific 2021 & 2022 plan review.

Great American Smokeout: The 45th annual American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout (GASO) is tomorrow, November 19th. The event was started as a day to encourage people who smoke to quit or make a plan to quit. Since then, the day has not only morphed from being about quitting cigarettes to quitting all forms of tobacco, but also to advocate for comprehensive tobacco control policies, including smoke-free laws, increased tobacco excise taxes, coverage for lifesaving cessation services in Medicaid, and increased funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs. If you are interested in submitting a Letter to the editor focusing on the importance of tobacco cessation funding in either Maine or Massachusetts, please let Melissa know and she'll provide you with a template.

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness: In addition to being GASO, tomorrow is also World Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Day. This year, the ACS estimates that just over 47,000 people in the US lives will be stolen by pancreatic cancer, with just over 1,000 of those lives being from Massachusetts and about 240 of them being from Maine. I want to shout out to Brock and the Pancreatic Cancer Society for their work to help educate people on the signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer, and specifically for his advocacy efforts to have Governor Charlie Baker and New Bedford MA Mayor Jon Mitchell declare November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month in MA. Part of advocacy is education, and ACS CAN MA and ME social media pages will have posts on pancreatic cancer awareness tomorrow and a few other times through the rest of the month. Please like and share as you can.

2020 Lame Duck Session

- **Federal Appropriations**
- **Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act**
- **Emergency COVID-19 Package**
- **Texas vs. the US**



MELISSA:

Working with Biden transition team

- ACS CAN has reached out to the Biden transition team
- Their current focus is on COVID-19
- We'll continue to communicate with them about our priorities

Congressional Activity

- Congress is expected to adjourn for the year on Dec 18th.
- They will be focused on a number of ACS CAN priority issues between now and then.

Federal Appropriations:

- We are currently operating under a continuing resolution through December 11
- The House passed and released their budget in September
- The Senate passed and released their budget last week. It included a \$2 billion increase to the National Institutes of Health, which includes a \$282 million increase to the National Cancer Institute, and a \$750,000 increase to Center for Disease Control Cancer programs
- Next Steps: We will see the House and Senate send their budgets to Conference Committee to work on differences, with most likely a vote coming sometime before

December 11th.

- **Actions you can take:** Keep your eyes open for emails from our ACS CAN National Team with ways you can take action in the weeks to come.

Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act:

- Excited to share that the language for the Henrietta Lacks legislation was included in BOTH the House and Senate budgets
- This sets us up in a good position for it to pass in the final omnibus appropriations package
- UPDATE: There is an effort to get the House Henrietta Lacks bill on the suspension calendar to get it passed before the end of session.
- **Actions you can take:** Please keep reaching out to your Federal Delegation Members and urge them to cosponsor the legislation. The more co-sponsors we have, the faster legislation moves. Currently in Maine, only Senator Collins is on board. In Massachusetts, only Representative Lynch and Kennedy are on board.
 - Melissa has talking points that can be used to email your Federal Delegation Member. They were shared in the last two weekly updates, and she is happy to send them again if you need them.

Emergency COVID Package

- We expect the House and Senate to continue working towards another COVID-19 package. Currently the House package is just over \$2T. The Senate would like the package to not be much more than \$1T.
- ACS CAN's focus will remain on increased funding for Medicaid programs in the states
- And on financial relief for larger non-profits

Supreme Court

- Oral arguments in the TX vs the US regarding the Affordable Care Act took place on November 10 & 11.
- ACS CAN and 18 of our partners filed an Amicus brief in support of the ACA
- The focus of the dialog was around 3 areas:
 - Does TX have a standing in the case – is there an impact on TX, financial or otherwise
 - The constitutionality of the individual mandate – which congress has zeroed out
 - The severability of the individual mandate from the rest of the law – can the remainder of the law stand if the individual mandate is severed from the law to be favorable
- We expect a decision in spring of 2021
- While oral arguments are not indicative of a final decision, the conversation leaned favorable in regards to the severability of the individual mandate from the rest of the law
- It's important to note that Massachusetts has passed a lot of provisions that are in the ACA that provide protection to cancer patients and others. While not ideal, if the ACA were to be repealed, Maine residents would still have the majority of protections. However, many of us have family across the country that could be impacted if this

legislation is repealed.

STATE TEAM BREAKOUTS



Maine:

- [Link in chat](#)
- **1-917-727-7985 513 376 250#**

Massachusetts:

- [Link in chat](#)
- **1-917-727-7985 122 568 210#**



Now it's time to move into our State Teams. I'll be sharing specifics on how to do this momentarily. A few things to note: I'm going to stay in this room and provide support until everyone is able to move into their state specific room. We are not coming back together at the end. For the Maine team, Hilary S. will be moderating the call and sharing any Maine specific updates. For the Massachusetts team, Patti will get you started and I'll be joining as soon as everyone is set. Thanks to everyone for joining the joint call tonight!

For those of you that have joined via computer – I'm putting the link to the rooms in the chat. Find the Massachusetts or Maine Room and click the link to join.

For those of you that have joined via phone, you will need to hang up and call in to the number I'm about to give you.

For Maine: the phone number is **1-917-727-7985 513 376 250#**

For Massachusetts: the phone number is **1-917-727-7985 122 568 210#**

POST ELECTION LANDSCAPE

- **Massachusetts Delegation**
 - **CD4 Open Seat – Jake Auchincloss**
- **State House Make Up**
- **FY21 Budget**
- **Step Therapy**



One open seat – CD4 was Joe Kennedy’s seat

- Jake Auchincloss, who won the open 4th Congressional District seat currently held by Congressman Joe Kennedy III, has a strong familial connection to the mission of ACS/ACS CAN. Jake is the son of Dr. Laurie Glimcher, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dana Farber Cancer Center in Boston. Jake’s father, Dr. Hugh Auchincloss, is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Principal Deputy Director.
- UPDATE: Brock has a good relationship with Representative-Elect Auchincloss and Tim has a good working relationship with Dr. Glimcher.

19 New Lawmakers – 2 Senators and 1 House

House CURRENT (160 Seats)

Democrats: 127
Republicans: 31
Independent: 1
Vacant: 1

House POST ELECTION (160 Seats)

Democrats: 129
Republicans: 30

Independent: 1

Senate CURRENT (40 Seats)

Democrats: 36

Republicans: 4

Senate POST ELECTION (40 Seats) +1 Democrats

Democrats: 37

Republicans: 3

FY21 Budget:

The House Ways and Means Committee released their version of the FY -21 budget last week and the full House debated the budget this week. Final passage came late Thursday night.

Of note to ACS CAN:

- Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention program: The House funds the program at \$5,118,155 - a \$500,000 increase over Governor's revised budget amount of \$4,618,155.
- Pediatric palliative care program: The House funds the program at \$6,016,053 – a \$1.2 million increase over Governor's revised budget.
- Prostate Cancer Research, Education and Awareness program: Funded at the requested level of \$800,000 with our requested earmark language. Governor did not include the program in his budget – which is normal
- Healthy Incentives Program: Funded at \$13 million, an \$8 million increase over the Governor's proposal and a \$6.5 million increase over FY '20.
- Includes the Governor's proposal to delay, by one year, the start of a state charitable giving deduction from tax year 2020 to tax year 2021.

The Senate released their budget late last week, and debate took place this week.

- Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention program: funds the program at \$4,618,155 – the same level as the Governor but \$500,000 less than the House. ACS CAN secured a Senate sponsor for an amendment to increase the line item to the House level, but the amendment was withdrawn as it would not have been approved.
- Pediatric palliative care program: funds the program at \$6,516,582 – a \$500k increase over the House budget and a \$1.7 million increase over Governor's revised budget.
- Prostate Cancer Research, Education and Awareness program: Funded at the requested level of \$800,000 but does not include our requested earmark language like the House does. ACS CAN secured a sponsor for an amendment to add the earmark language, and that amendment was approved.
- Healthy Incentives Program: Funded at \$13 million, the same as the House budget, an \$8 million increase over the Governor's proposal and a \$6.5 million increase over FY '20.
- Includes delay of state charitable giving deduction.
- Additionally, an amendment was filed in the Senate that would have repealed the landmark legislation that prohibits the sale of ALL flavored tobacco products in Massachusetts. ACS CAN volunteers, staff, and our partners pushed calls and emails into

the Senate offices, and I'm happy to report that this amendment was rejected!!

Next Steps: The House and Senate will convene a conference committee to work out the differences in the two budgets before sending it to the Governor for his signature.

- Stay tuned for updates and ways you can take action in the weeks ahead.

ACS CAN and our partners in the Step Therapy/Fail First Coalition are working on a partners sign on letter urging the MA Legislature to pass the Step Therapy/Fail First legislation before the end of this legislative session, which ends January 5th.

WRAPPING IT UP

- **Questions?**
- **Next Call: December 16 at 7pm**



Our next call is December 16th at 7pm. We look forward to talking with you all then.

Thanks for joining us tonight and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.