



# **ACS CAN New York Cancer Action Day Training**

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

# Meet the Team!



# Michael Davoli

Senior Government Relations Director

#FightCancerNY



**Rebecca Oechsner**

Regional Senior Manager, Grassroots Organizing

#FightCancerNY



# Anthony Sandusky

New York City Grassroots Manager

#FightCancerNY

- **Please stay muted if not speaking**
- **Use the chat box**
- **Raise your virtual hand**

# What we'll cover today

- 1 **Agenda: Timeline of Events**
- 2 **Legislative Overview**
- 3 **Meeting with your lawmakers**
- 4 **Social Media**
- 5 **Post-Event**

# **When, Where, How**



# When: Time of Events

Location: *3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Terrace, Legislative Office Building*

## **10–11 AM: Check-in, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Terrace, Legislative Office Building**

*Pick-up T-shirts, volunteer folders, Team Leader pick up your leave behind folders and schedules for your team. Coffee, water, grab and go snacks.*

## **11–11:30 AM: Event Kick-off**

## **11:30 AM: Presentation of Awards, Speaking Program, Updates**

*Michael Davoli, Sr. Government Relations Director*

## **11:50 AM: Group Photo on Stairs (photographer, 11–1)**

## **12–4 PM: Meetings with Elected Officials, schedules handed out by Team Leader**

*Drop off leave behind folders for those members you do not have a meeting scheduled.*

## **3–4 PM: Report Back Form, Medicaid Postcards & Thank You Notes**

*Pizza & Salad will be available*

## **4–4:30 PM: Debrief and back to buses to depart Albany**

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# Where: Empire State Plaza



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# How: Navigating the Empire State Plaza

## 1 **Bus Drop-off**

At the far end of the concourse, in front of the museum on Madison Avenue. There will be greeters to direct you off the bus where to go. You will walk the entire length of the concourse to the other end where you will go through security.

## 2 **Parking**

If you are driving into Albany, there is parking under the plaza in the V-Lot, P-3, it is \$10 for the day. Get there early to get into this lot. I recommend going to the MVP Arena parking garage located at 1 Market Street, Albany. The cost is \$8 for the day. There is also metered parking right on State Street in front of the Legislative Office Building.

## 3 **Where to find us**

Once through security, you will go to the left where you see the sign for Legislative Office Building. Go to the second elevator bank and go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. You will see us there.

# Why we advocate



**Vision:** End cancer as we know it, for everyone.

**Mission:** Improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

Patient  
Support



Action  
through  
advocacy



Advancing  
discovery



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# What we advocate for

Access to Care



Accelerating Cures



Prevention, including Tobacco Control



Eliminating Disparities + Building Health Equity



# Scope of our advocacy

# Recent New York wins

Access to Care

**Biomarker  
Testing**

Tobacco

**\$1 increase  
on packs of  
cigarettes**

Prevention

**Medical Debt**

Early Detection

**Cancer  
Screening**



# ...And volunteers make all the difference



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# Legislative Asks

# New York 2025 Legislative Asks

## 1 **Reform NY's Paid Medical Leave System**

**S172 / A84** will improve access to NY's paid medical leave system. All working cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers should have access to paid family and medical leave that allows them to take time off work to attend to their own or a loved one's care without losing their job or income. **Please ask your Conference to support it and pass it right away.**

## 2 **Remove Barriers to Lung Cancer Screening**

**S2000 / A1195** will improve access to lung cancer screening by eliminating patient cost-sharing for follow up screening. Out-of-pocket costs for individuals lead to delayed or missed lung cancer screenings. Delayed or missed screenings can lead to delays in follow-up testing and treatment, which ultimately impacts a patient's survival. **Please co-sponsor the legislation and ask your Conference to support it and pass it before adjourning in June.**

## 3 **Expand Access to Patient Navigation Services**

**S5565 / A6586** will improve care for individuals who are eligible for screening, follow-up, or treatment by expanding access to patient navigation services. By requiring all state regulated health plans in New York State, including Medicaid, to reimburse for patient navigation services New York State can improve patient outcomes and reduce overall health care spending. **Please co-sponsor the legislation.**

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## Issue #1 Overview:

# Reform NY's Paid Medical Leave System

- 3 / 4 cancer patients and survivors say they missed work due to their illness and 2 / 3 missed more than a month of work.
- 1/3 did not receive any pay for the time missed.
- Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) is the program New Yorkers rely on when they need to take care of their own serious health needs.
- \$170 per week maximum compared to NJ \$1,000+, Mass \$1000+
- No job protection
- No coverage for intermittent leave or taking time one week or one day at a time.
- **No one battling cancer should have to choose between feeding their families and taking time off for treatment.**

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## Issue #1 Overview:

# Reform NY's Paid Medical Leave System

A84/S172 contains the reforms needed to make these programs work for all New Yorkers

- Remove the \$170/week cap on benefits for one's serious health condition and increase that cap to 67% of the State's average weekly wage by 2029
- Provide intermittent leave;
- Protect workers' jobs and health insurance during medical leave;
- Passed the Senate 50-11 in March for the second year in a row
- **Please ask your Conference to pass it right away.**

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## Issue #2 Overview:

# Remove Barriers to Lung Cancer Screening

- Lung cancer is the #1 cancer killer
- Only about 19.5% of high-risk New Yorkers getting screened for lung cancer
- Only 31.0% of lung cancer cases are caught at an early stage
- ACA requires insurance coverage for INITIAL LUNG CANCER SCREENING with no patient out of pocket costs but not follow up screening or diagnostic testing.
- Follow up screening or diagnostic testing is often needed to confirm a cancer diagnosis or to ensure proper treatment
- Out-of-pocket costs for follow-up lung cancer screening and diagnostic tests averaged \$424.05 per individual with a range of \$0 to \$7,498.74.

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## Issue #2 Overview:

# Remove Barriers to Lung Cancer Screening

- Cost sharing is a significant barrier to care
- Out-of-pocket costs for individuals lead impacts a person's chance of survival.
- The American Cancer Society believes that Cancer screening is a continuum of testing rather than a single recommended screening test
- ACS CAN supports S2000 / A1195 which ensure comprehensive insurance coverage and the elimination of cost sharing for recommended lung cancer screening and follow-up testing for individuals by all payers in New York, including Medicaid.
- Passed the Senate 61-0 in March for second year in a row
- **Will you co-sponsor the legislation and ask your Conference to support it and pass it before adjourning in June.**

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# Issue #3 Overview:

## Expand Access to Patient Navigation Services



### Access across Cancer Care Continuum

Patient navigators have been shown to help increase cancer screenings rates, help patients better understand treatment options after diagnosis and can help ensure patients receive the post treatment care they need in survivorship.



### Cost Savings & Treatment Adherence

Patient navigator programs help identify diagnosis at earlier stages when less invasive and less costly treatment options are available to patients, often resulting in better outcomes and reduced overall costs.



### Advances Health Equity

Culturally appropriate patient navigation services can improve health outcomes for diverse populations through community outreach and targeted care coordination.



### Patient & Provider Satisfaction

Patient navigation offers tailored patient-centred cancer care and the opportunity to prioritize unique patient needs. Patient navigation has also been shown to increase patient retention and reduce provider administrative burdens.



## **Issue #3 Overview:**

# **Expand Access to Patient Navigation Services**

**91%**

agree it is important for  
cancer patients to have access  
to a patient navigator,

**55%**

say their primary oncology  
provider has a patient  
navigator available on staff.

**Lack of reimbursement is  
holding patient navigation  
services back**

**Medicare started to  
reimburse in 2024**

**State action needed**

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# **Issue #3 Overview:**

## **Expand Access to Patient Navigation Services**

### **Qualification**

- Only professional patient navigation services are eligible for reimbursement
- Trained, certified, supervised

### **Patient navigation services shall include but not be limited to:**

- screening for nonclinical and social needs that do not require a licensed healthcare provider to complete;
- referrals and follow-up to connect individuals to services including, but not limited to transportation, employment, job training, food insecurity, childcare, housing, language or health literacy support;
- help with enrollment or maintaining enrollment in government programs or other assistance programs;
- arranging for and accompaniment to in-person and virtual healthcare visits; or
- other prevention, screening and treatment health education, health navigation, health advocacy, or individual supports including transition of care supports.

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## **Issue #3 Overview:**

# **Expand Access to Patient Navigation Services**

**S5565 / A6586** will improve care for individuals who are eligible for screening, follow-up, or treatment by expanding access to patient navigation services. By requiring all state regulated health plans in New York State, including Medicaid, to reimburse for patient navigation services New York State can improve patient outcomes and reduce overall health care spending.

**Please co-sponsor the legislation.**

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# Our 2 minute message:



## #1 Reform NY's Paid Medical Leave System (Assembly)

- No one battling cancer should have to choose between feeding their families and taking time off for treatment
- New York State's paid medical leave system is not meeting the needs of cancer patients
- A84-Solages will provide cancer patients and others a livable wage and protect them from losing their job and health insurance while undergoing treatment
- Please ask your Conference to support **A84** and pass it right away.

## #2 Remove Barriers to Lung Cancer Screening (Assembly)

- Lung cancer is the #1 cancer killer
- Out-of-pocket costs for follow-up lung cancer screening and diagnostic tests are preventing people from getting screened and contributing to the high rate of lung cancer deaths
- A1195-Peoples-Stokes will eliminate patient cost sharing for lung cancer screening
- Will you co-sponsor **A1195** and ask your Conference to pass it before adjourning in June?

## #3 Expand Access to Patient Navigation Services (Assembly/Senate)

- Patient navigation services improve patient outcomes and reduce overall health care spending
- A lack of reimbursement for navigation services is preventing many patients from accessing them
- S5565-Bailey/A6586-Weprin will require all state regulated health plans, including Medicaid, to reimburse for patient navigation services.
- Will you co-sponsor **S5565/A6586**?

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# Q&A

# Lawmaker Meetings

# State Legislators

**REMEMBER:**

**You are meeting with your STATE representatives.**

**Assembly Members**

**Senators**

**NOT Congress Members, please remember to address them as Senator or Assembly Member.**

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# Hook, Line, Sinker

## Hook

**Meeting leader introduces the group (name + where you live) and why you are here.**

I am here as a volunteer for ACS CAN. We are meeting with nearly every Member of the New York State Legislature.

## Line

**Explain the need: (INSERT why this is needed/impact on state/why important for cancer etc.)**

Tell your personal story: Connect your personal story to the importance of the ask/issue.

## Sinker

**Make the ask!**

Will you support (insert ask)?

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# Example of a Legislative Meeting

## Listen for:

- **Introductions (Hook)**
- **Personal connection to cancer (Line)**
- **A request for support (Sink)**

# Telling Your Story

- Your story will be different.
- You don't have to be perfect.
- If your story doesn't align to the asks, you can say:

I know what it's like to hear the words "you have cancer" or I know the impact that a cancer diagnosis can have on a family. Let me tell you about my friend/relative/coworker.....



# Report Back



## Report back and let us know how your meeting went

Your feedback helps our staff provide additional information to lawmakers and make strategic decisions in successful campaigns.

**Remember:** One report back form should be completed for each lawmaker meeting.

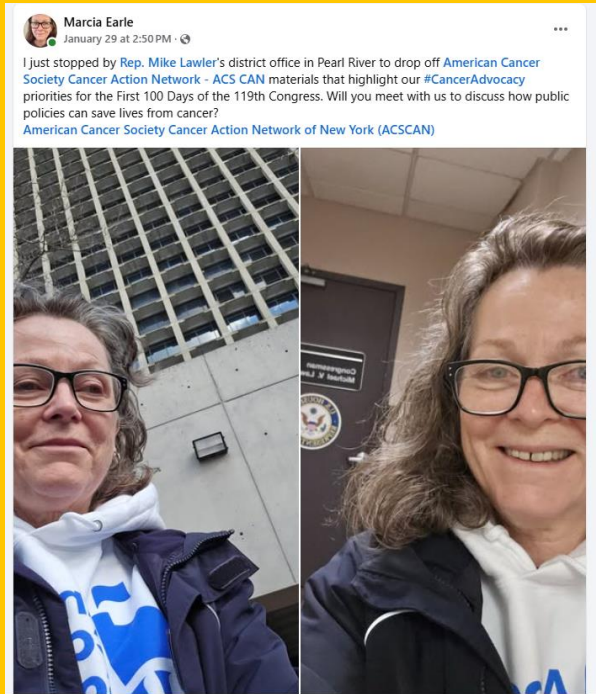


Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://act.fightcancer.org/a/acs-can-report-back-form>

# Social Media

# Let's Takeover Social Media



- **@ACSCAN\_NY = X and Instagram**  
**@ACSCANatNY = FB**
- **Tag your lawmaker**
- **#FightCancerNY**
- **Share your experience & the Ask**
- **Don't forget to engage with others**

# Reminders

# Logistics Reminder:



- **Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025
- **Time to Arrive:** If driving, by 10AM
- **Parking:** Visitor Lot, Meter or MVP Arena  
Save receipt for reimbursement
- **Entrance Location:** through security to the left from the Concourse or State Street, up the stairs, through security
- **Meeting Location:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Terrace, Legislative Office Building
- **You will be given a lunch ticket to redeem for ONE boxed lunch, if there are leftovers, we will let you know.**
- **What to wear:**
  - Comfortable walking shoes.
  - Business casual: no ripped jeans, sweatpants, no shorts.
  - T-shirt will be given to you when you arrive. If you get chilly, feel free to bring a sweater, jacket, blazer or cardigan to wear with your T-shirt.



# Reminder to:



- When you arrive, there will be numbers on the chairs, please try and sit near the number indicated on your folder.
- Please take pictures at your meetings.
- Post on social media.
- Thank your lawmaker/staff person via email/handwritten note.
- Your story is your strongest tool when advocating and no one knows it better than you.
- Do not talk about political affiliations or if you voted for the member or not. Stick to the script and the task at hand, "Fighting Cancer as we know it, for everyone."

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**Most importantly don't forget to: HAVE FUN!**



# Q&A

# Thank You