

2022 Leadership Summit & Lobby Day

Legislative Asks



We have always suggested that no meeting with a lawmaker should follow a script; what you say should be tailored to your story and your relationship with your lawmaker, but with a little preparation, planning, and practice, yours will be great!

During our 2022 Leadership Summit & Lobby Day, we will ask Congress to:

- Support increased funding for cancer research & prevention programs with at least **\$49 billion** for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including **\$7.7 billion** for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). AND, support **\$462.6 million** for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cancer programs, including **\$225 million** for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.
- *IF THE OFFICE YOU ARE MEETING WITH HAS NOT* CO-SPONSORED H.R. 5030/S. 2706:* Support diversity in clinical trials through **co-sponsorship of H.R. 5030/S. 2706**, the Diversifying Investigations Via Equitable Research Studies for Everyone (DIVERSE) Trials Act. (For the handful of Members who have already co-sponsored, just thank them.)
- *IF THE OFFICE YOU ARE MEETING WITH HAS NOT* CO-SPONSORED H.R. 1946/S. 1873* the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act: **Please co-sponsor H.R. 1946/S. 1873** the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act.
- *IF THE OFFICE YOU ARE MEETING WITH HAS* CO-SPONSORED H.R. 1946/S. 1873:* **Thank you** for co-sponsoring H.R. 1946/S. 1873 the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act. Please ask the leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and/or the Senate Finance Committee to **hold a hearing** on the bill this year.

* Note: Please refer to meeting schedule to determine the ask.

A few things to keep in mind:

- THANK THEM FOR THEIR PAST SUPPORT. We want to thank lawmakers for making many of our issues a top priority, from past increases for research funding to passage of the Henrietta Lacks Cancer Research Enhancement Act, a Leadership Summit & Lobby Day ask in 2020 that the DIVERSE Trials Act builds upon. While we still have work to do, because of this past support we are in a much stronger position to help improve the lives of cancer patients and survivors. Democrat, Republican or Independent, ACS CAN-backed legislation has bipartisan and bicameral support, something we are very proud of.
- REMEMBER HOOK, LINE, SINKER. It is important to plan with your team how the meeting will flow. Introductions, your story and the ask all need to be planned out. Practicing with your team ahead of time will get you ready for a successful meeting.
- REMEMBER TO PERSONALIZE YOUR DISCUSSION. Let them know your connection whether it be a cancer treatment breakthrough, access to quality of life services, or cancer screening story. How has cancer touched your life? Lawmakers and their staff hear from professional lobbyists all day, every day. They don't need to hear a lot of statistics from you, so just memorize one fact that you think will be persuasive, and make sure to tie it to your experiences.

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- LET US KNOW THE OUTCOME. Whether you get a yes, no, or a maybe, ACS CAN's federal relations team wants to know how your meeting went. Please be sure to use your Soapbox mobile tool to complete your report-back form.

The Script *(Please follow the script for Hook, Line, Sinker)*

OPENING THE MEETING

Today I am joining American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network volunteers from across the country in meeting with nearly every Member of Congress. We have several asks today that will ensure we continue to fund discovery that makes finding cures a reality, prioritize critical prevention programs and treatment of cancer, and prioritize equitable access to cancer care. We are thankful for the work done during the 117th Congress to make access to affordable health care a priority for Americans by passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, particularly provisions enacting a cap on out-of-pocket costs in the Medicare Part D program and the extension of expanded tax credits for people who get their insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplaces. Now we are here to talk with you about other critical issues people with cancer face in our community.

THE HOOK

It is critical that ACT Leads are the primary speaker for their specific House of Representatives meeting and the SLA leads the Senate meeting. The ACT Lead should be the only speaker in their House meeting unless a special designee is invited to speak.

- Share who you are and why you took time out of your day to volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. Remember to mention your name and the town where you reside.
- Briefly introduce your fellow ACS CAN volunteers and where in your state they are from.
- Introduce any other identified speakers (the SLA, a volunteer with a key story to share, or other special guest).

THE LINE

Share your cancer connection and how it relates to the asks. You can also try to include some of the key facts about the asks to help support your story. See the additional talking points document for ideas.

- We all have a reason for being an advocate to reduce the burden of cancer. My reason is...
- We are grateful for the bipartisan support that Congress has shown many of ACS CAN's priorities over the years. Specifically, the investment made in the NIH over the last 7 years and prioritizing the need for equity in clinical trials.
- Passage of the Henrietta Lacks Cancer Research Enhancement Act was an important step in creating equitable access to clinical trials, but there is still much work to be done.
- Cancer is a disease that affects everyone, but it doesn't affect everyone equally.
- There is still much work to do to ensure we make access to care a priority and continue to fund critical prevention and treatment of cancer that make finding cures a reality.

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THE SINKER:

This is your chance to close the deal and make your ask.

- Will you support increased funding for cancer research & prevention programs with at least \$49 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$7.7 billion for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). AND, support \$462.6 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cancer programs, including \$225 million for the National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program?
- *If not current DIVERSE Trials Act co-sponsor**: An important component of the DIVERSE Trials Act was included in the House version of the FDA user fee bill. While this is an important first step, more needs to be done, including ensuring this language is included in final bicameral legislation. Will you show your support for diversity in clinical trials by becoming a co-sponsor of H.R. 5030/S. 2706, the Diversifying Investigations Via Equitable Research Studies for Everyone (DIVERSE) Trials Act?
- *If current MCED co-sponsor**: **Thank you** for co-sponsoring H.R. 1946/S. 1873 the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act. Please ask the leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and/or the Senate Finance Committee to **hold a hearing** on the bill this year.
- *If not current MCED co-sponsor**: Will you co-sponsor H.R. 1946/S. 1873 the Medicare Multi Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act?

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Ending the Meeting

REMEMBER TO END WITH A THANK YOU

- Thank the Member or staffer for their time.
- Let them know that you will follow up.

DEBRIEF WITH YOUR TEAM

- Come back together with your team to compare notes, discuss what you learned and identify someone to fill out the report back form on the Soapbox mobile tool.

REGROUP AND PREPARE FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING!