



ACS CAN New York Cancer Action Day Training

Tuesday, April 14, 2026



Meet the Team!



Rebecca Oechsner

Regional Senior Manager, Grassroots Organizing

#FightCancerNY



Michael Davoli

Senior Government Relations Director

#FightCancerNY

North Atlantic Region Staff Support



Rachel Mayo
Director, Grassroots
Organizing



Casey O'Neill
Senior Regional Media
Advocacy Manager



Bill Sherman
NAR Managing Director

#FightCancerNY

Training Volunteers



Lexy Mealing
State Lead Ambassador



Marcia Earle
SLA Emeritus



Peter O'Connor
Volunteer CD03

Training Volunteers



Jeff Orloff
Lead Volunteer CD12



Lizzie Goberdhan
Lead Volunteer CD05

- **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 and What's App**
- 5 **Post-Event & Q&A**



When, Where, How

When: Time of Events

Location: *The Well, Legislative Office Building*

10–11 AM: Check-in, The Well, Legislative Office Building

Pick-up T-shirts if this is your first Cancer Action Day, volunteer folders, Team Leader pick up your leave behind folders and schedules for your team. Coffee, water (please bring your own water bottle to fill), and boxed lunches will be available.

11–11:30 AM: Event Kick-off

11:30 AM: Speaking Program, Updates

Michael Davoli, Senior Government Relations Director

11:50 AM: Group Photo on Stairs

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

If you have time between meetings, drop off leave behind folders for those members that do not have a meeting scheduled.

3–4 PM: Don't forget to do Report Back Forms & Thank You cards

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. Walk straight in and you will arrive in The Well on the first floor of the Legislative Office Building.



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

Tobacco

Prevention

Early Detection

**Biomarker
Testing**

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

Medical Debt

**Cancer
Screening**

...And volunteers make all the difference



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Legislative Asks

New York 2026 Legislative Asks

1 **Preserve Medicaid patient access to biomarker testing**

Biomarker testing is key to matching patients with the most effective treatment for cancer and other diseases. Biomarker testing helps clinicians identify the right treatment at the right time. **Will you ask your Conference to reject the governor's proposal to rollback Medicaid patients' access to biomarker testing?**

2 **Reform NY's Paid Medical Leave System**

A9571/S172A 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.**

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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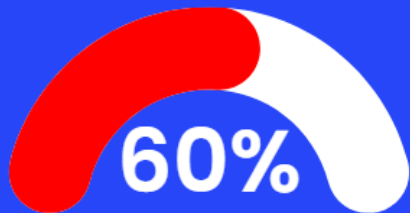
Issue #1 Overview:

Preserve Medicaid patient access to biomarker testing

WHAT IS BIOMARKER TESTING?

Biomarker testing is often used to help determine the best treatment for a patient.

- It is the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker.
- Biomarker testing is an important step for accessing precision medicine, including targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients.
- While most current applications of biomarker testing are in oncology and autoimmune disease, there is research underway to benefit patients with other conditions including heart disease, neurological conditions like Alzheimer's disease, infectious disease and respiratory illness.



Of oncology drugs launched in the past five years require or recommend biomarker testing prior to use

Issue #1 Overview:

Preserve Medicaid patient access to biomarker testing

- In 2023, NYS enacted a law that required all health plans in NY, including Medicaid, to cover the cost of biomarker testing.
- The governor's budget rolls back biomarker coverage for Medicaid patients.
- Rolling back access to biomarker testing will cost lives and long-term health care dollars.
- We must preserve Medicaid coverage of biomarker testing for New Yorkers. This proposal is short-sighted for the budget and will result in worse health outcomes.
- **Will you ask your Conference to reject the governor's proposal to rollback Medicaid patients' access to biomarker testing?**

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Issue #2 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 \$1,000+
- 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 #2 Overview:

Reform NY's Paid Medical Leave System

A9571/S172a 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;
- The Senate has passed the bill twice but the Assembly continues to stall.
- **Please ask your Conference to pass it right away.**

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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

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 Preserve Medicaid patient access to biomarker testing (Assembly/Senate)

- Biomarker testing is key to matching patients with the most effective treatment for cancer and other diseases.
- We must preserve Medicaid coverage of biomarker testing for New Yorkers. This proposal is short-sighted for the budget and will result in worse health outcomes.
- Will you ask your Conference to reject the governor's proposal to rollback Medicaid patients' access to biomarker testing?

#2 Reform NY's Paid Medical Leave System (Assembly/Senate)

- 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.
- A9571/S172a 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 A9571/S172a and pass it right away.

Our 2 minute message:



#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**?

Q&A



Lawmaker Meetings



How does your team work?

Team Leader

Constituents from adjacent districts

Decide speakers for each of the 3 asks in each meeting.

- This is determined by who is the constituent and/or who has the closest story related to the ask.

Assign a notetaker

Sample Schedule

TEAM X – Region

Team leader: XX
Team leader #2: XX

Participants
Name
Name
Name
Name

Legislator	Time	Place	Constituents
Senator	XX	LOB	Name, name
AM	XX	LOB	Name, name, name
Senator	XX	CAP	Name, name
AM	XX	LOB	Name, name, name, name
AM	XX	LOB	Name, name
Senator		CAP	Name, name
AM		LOB	Name

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State Legislators

REMEMBER: You are meeting with your STATE representatives.

Assembly Members and Senators

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

If you don't know who your representatives are, please look it up.

Meeting with staff is fantastic! 😊

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)?

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 feed back 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.

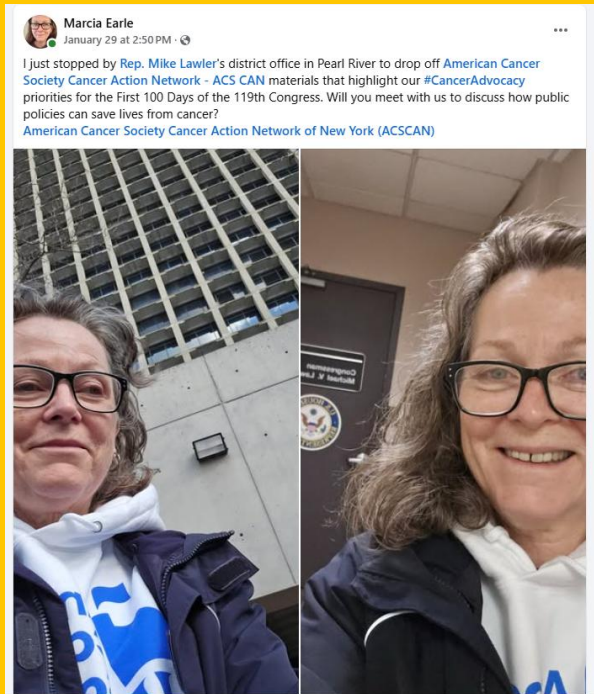


Scan the QR code or visit:

<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**

What's App for Team Communication

For iPhone (Apple)

1. Open the **App Store**
2. Tap the **Search** tab (bottom right)
3. Type **“WhatsApp Messenger”**
4. Tap the official app (by Meta)
5. Tap **Get** → then **Install** (you may need Face ID, Touch ID, or your Apple ID password)
6. Wait for it to download, then tap **Open**

After You Install

1. Open WhatsApp
2. Tap **Agree & Continue**
3. Enter your phone number
4. Enter the verification code sent to you
5. Add your name and (optional) profile photo



For Android

1. Open the **Google Play Store**
2. Tap the search bar
3. Type **“WhatsApp Messenger”**
4. Select the official app (by Meta)
5. Tap **Install**
6. Once finished, tap **Open**

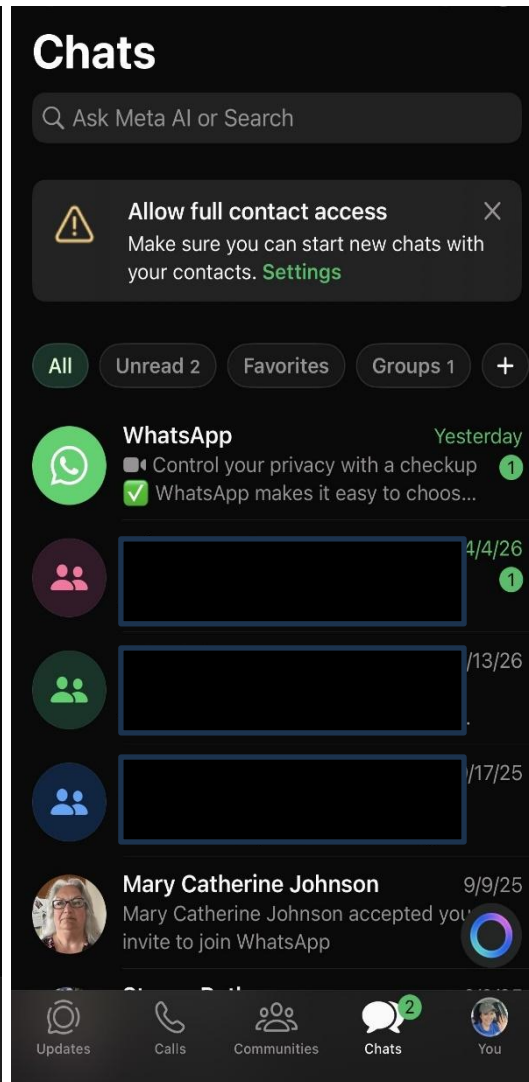
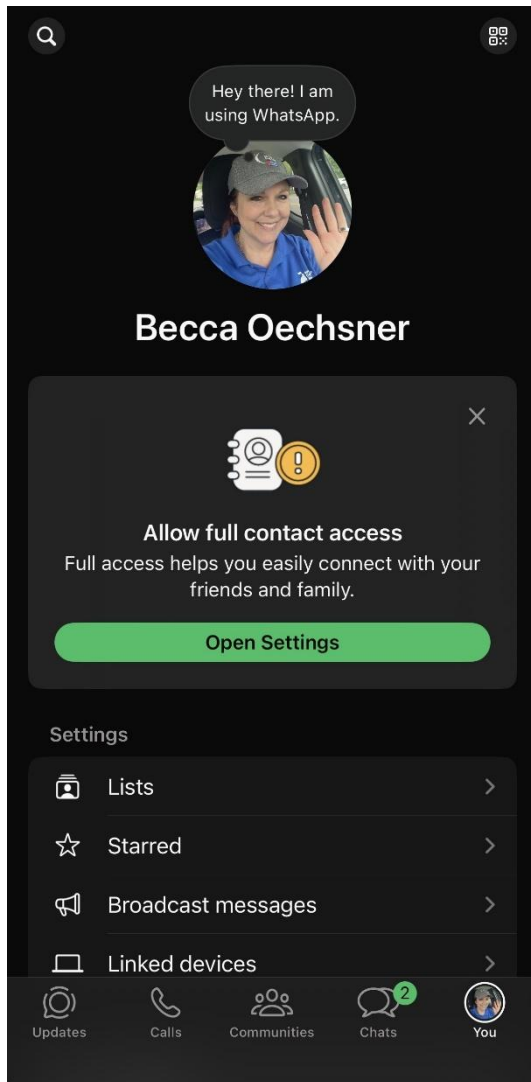
Tips

- Make sure you download the official app
- You'll need a working phone number to set it up
- It works over Wi-Fi or cellular data



(green icon with a white phone)

What's App for Team Communication



Key Takeaways:

Download the app

When you receive an invitation to join a chat, accept.



Reminders

Logistics Reminder:



- **Meeting Location: Tuesday, April 21, The Well, First Floor, 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.**

- **Bring your own refillable water bottle, there will be a water cooler, NOT single use bottles.**

- **Don't forget your phone chargers or battery banks.**

What to wear:

- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Business casual: no ripped jeans, shorts or sweatpants.
- Wear your T-Shirt from last year. If you have indicated you need one, a 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 tables, please sit at the table with your team number indicated on your folder.
- Please take pictures at your meetings.
- Post on social media.
- Thank your lawmaker/staff person via email/handwritten note on provided thank you cards.
- 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."
- ALWAYS REMEMBER – Your story is your strongest tool when advocating and no one knows it better than you.
- **PRACTICE!!**

Resource Center

Cancer Action Day Resource Center

Welcome to ACS CAN NY's Cancer Action Day Resource Center!



Registration has closed for this event.

Cancer Action Day is a time to experience the comradery with likeminded advocates and gather together with one mission, to ask our lawmakers to make cancer a priority. It is our volunteers who bring a human connection to cancer and show our lawmakers that it is their constituents, not just a statistic, that cancer affects. Telling your story is our superpower and how we can make change. On this page you will find pertinent information about the event, how to register, training materials and event materials. **We want to be fully transparent and let you know that there will be a lot of walking during the day. If you have mobility issues, please indicate that on the registration form where it asks.**

For more information, please contact Becca Oechsner at Rebecca.Oechsner@cancer.org. Thank you for your interest and we can't wait to advocate with you!

Listed below are the bus routes for Tuesday, April 21. Any questions, please contact rebecca.oechsner@cancer.org

Buffalo/Rochester/Syracuse

Long Island/Queens

Materials for ACS CAN NY Cancer Action Day - Information is updated as it becomes available.

[Agenda for Cancer Action Day, Tuesday, April 21, 2026](#)

[2026 Cancer Action Day Legislative Asks](#)

[2026 Cancer Facts & Figures](#)

[Cancer Action Day Training Manual without asks](#)

[Talking points for lawmaker meetings](#)

[Training video from our Senior Government Relations Director Michael Davoli regarding asks.](#)

[Co-sponsors for Legislation](#)

[Lawmaker leave behind packets](#)

[Lawmaker one-pager](#)

[Crafting your story worksheet](#)



Training information for Cancer Action Day - Our training will be held on Tuesday, April 14.

[Here is the Teams link for April 14 from 12-1:30 PM](#)

[Here is the Teams link for April 14 from 6:30-8 PM](#)

[Training Slides](#)

[Training Recording \(available after April 14\)](#)

Information for Team Leaders

If you have been asked to be a team leader for Cancer Action Day, we have put together resources to help you plan your team meetings. Below you will find a check list and worksheet. If you have any questions, please let me know.

[Team leader checklist](#)

[Team leader worksheet](#)



Most importantly don't forget to: HAVE FUN!



Thank You to our Cancer Action Day Committee Members



Karen Connor

Danielle Doucette

Marcia Earle

Elizabeth Goberdhan

Lexy Mealing

Veronica Novy

Peter O'Connor

Jeff Orloff

Emily Tier

Alice Varughese

Q&A





Thank You