

Suggested Rebuttal Arguments for Possible Pushback on Lobby Day



1. I know cancer is important, but there are so many other disease groups that also need funding.

ACS CAN response:

- *I appreciate that elected officials must make tough choices. But with 1.9 million Americans expected to hear the words “You have cancer” this year, sustained investment in research needs to be a national priority.*
- *That is why ACS CAN lobbies for increased funding for the NIH, not just for the NCI. So that we can increase funding for all medical research and not compete against each other for limited funds.*

2. NIH has received its fair share over the years.

ACS CAN response:

- *The progress made in the fight against cancer can be directly tied to the investments made to the NIH. Every advancement in cancer care over the last 50+ years was at one point funded by the NIH; increased funding is the only way to continue this progress.*
- *More funding is desperately needed to meet the overwhelming demand for research grants at the NCI, address cancer health disparities, and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on cancer clinical trials and patient screenings and treatment.*

3. Universities and private industry should be footing the bill for research, not the government.

ACS CAN response:

- *Investments by private sector companies are often funded long after most research has been conducted with NIH funding. Medical research must be a public-private investment.*
- *State funding for research and students, when adjusted for inflation, are below 2008 levels across our nation.*
- *Research that led to the discovery of vaccines, testing and treatment has always been a collaboration between state and federal governments fueling university-based research.*

4. NBCCEDP is no longer needed due to the ACA.

ACS CAN response:

- *Millions are still falling in the coverage gap. The program is still essential to ensuring anyone who needs these cancer prevention services can receive them and is an important step toward reducing disparities and advancing equity in breast and cervical cancer.*

5. Senator/Congressman does not co-sponsor health related bills.

ACS CAN response:

- *We appreciate your position on the committee of jurisdiction, will you support this legislation by committing to ask for a hearing? (Or call for a hearing if chair?) How else can we assist in getting you to support this legislation?*

6. There is no Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score.

ACS CAN response:

- *This is something we invite you to talk with the bill sponsors about, ACS CAN has also requested a score with the sponsors. We know Senators on both sides of the aisle have requested a score, but in the meantime, showing significant support for this legislation through co-sponsorship will be helpful in those efforts with CBO.*