

Protecting Cancer Cures

Volunteer Toolkit

Spring & Summer 2026



Progress in the fight against cancer is possible...

Cancer has touched all of us in one way or another, and for years Congress has demonstrated a bipartisan, bicameral commitment to reliable funding for the fight against cancer. **We know we cannot stand still in the fight against cancer; we must continue to push forward to see progress against this disease.** Increased funding for the fight against cancer is critical to that progress.

Ensuring our researchers have the funds they need to keep up with the pace of science; ensuring patients have access to early detection and cutting-edge treatments through clinical trials; and making sure our nation maintains its long-standing leadership in medical innovation are all part of that progress. **Now is the time to invest in our future and ensure we keep moving forward in the fight against cancer.**

This toolkit provides ways in which volunteers can impact the Protect Cancer Cures campaign over the spring and summer of 2026. Getting out into the community to collect petition signatures, attend congressional town hall events, submit letters to the editor, meet with members in the district and talk with friends, family and neighbors about the need to continue to make progress in the fight against cancer will be key to our success. Enclosed are ways to join the effort and make the most of opportunities over the next few months.



Protecting Cancer Cures



Included in this toolkit are the following items:

- ☒ Top 3 tactics for spring/summer (page 4)
- ☒ Campaign talking points (page 5)
- ☒ Sample town hall questions (page 6)
- ☒ Meeting script for in-district meetings (page 7 & 8)
- ☒ QR code petition for collection at community events & signage for events (pages 9–11)
- ☒ Phone script for calls to offices (page 12)
- ☒ Template letters to the editor (pages 13–14)



Protecting Cancer Cures



During the spring and summer months, teams are encouraged to take the following actions:



Attend Congressional town halls, either in person or virtually. Utilize the questions provided to ask your Members where they stand on protecting cancer cures.



Get out to community events. Utilize the petition and talking points to encourage members of your community to join our efforts.



Make noise in your local newspapers. Utilize the template letters to the editor to share your story and cancer connection in your community.



Protect Cancer Cures

Fiscal Year 2027 Campaign Talking Points

Spring/Summer 2026



Talking Points:

- Last year, Congress demonstrated what is possible when lawmakers from both parties come together with a shared commitment to addressing cancer. It is critical we continue building on this progress.
- Because when we stand still, cancer keeps moving forward.
- In 2026, more than 2.1 million Americans are expected to be diagnosed with cancer.
- In the last 30 years, thanks to the federal government's reliable and steady increases in cancer research and prevention funding, breakthrough discoveries, implementation of proven prevention strategies, and innovation have led to a 34% decline in cancer mortality rates.
- This commitment has contributed to the remarkable statistic of over 18 million cancer survivors currently living in the U.S. today.
- More people are surviving a cancer diagnosis than ever before, and we must continue to build from these successes. That must be done by investing in further research.
- Cancer prevention and early detection are critical in finding cancers early, at more treatable stages.
- At least 42% of newly diagnosed cancers in the U.S. are potentially preventable, and the substantial costs of treating advanced disease could be reduced, using existing fact-based strategies.
- The CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (DCPC) plays a crucial role in providing millions of screening exams, funding state cancer registries and educating the public directly on how to reduce their risk of cancer.
- As my voice in Congress, I ask that you stand up for continued progress in the fight against cancer, not take us backward.
- Any reduced funding would risk slowing scientific discovery and delaying new prevention, early detection, and treatments for patients who are counting on continued advancements.
- Please support the highest possible funding for cancer research and prevention programs in Fiscal Year 2027. ACS CAN recommends: \$51.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), \$7.99 billion for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), \$1.5 billion for ARPA-H and \$482.9 million for cancer prevention programs at the CDC.

Sample Town Hall Questions Spring/Summer 2026

It is important to participate in congressional town halls, either in person or virtually, to ask members publicly about our campaign priorities.

Feel free to choose the question best suited to your story or relationship with your member of Congress.

Cancer Research & Prevention Questions:

- Increasing federal funding for cancer research and prevention programs is critical to promoting further discovery and saving lives. We cannot stand still in the fight against cancer but must continue to invest in research and prevention that works to see progress. What will you do to ensure cancer research and prevention programs receive the increased funding they need to keep moving forward?
- More people are surviving a cancer diagnosis than ever before, and that is in large part due to the investments Congress has made to fund medical research at the National Institutes of Health and cancer prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. How will you work to ensure increased funding for these agencies is a priority in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget?

Research Only Question:

- Cancer patients and their families depend on lifesaving cancer research. In the last 30 years, thanks to the federal government's reliable and steady increases in cancer research funding, breakthrough discoveries and innovation have led to a 34% decline in cancer mortality rates. How will you continue this momentum and increase vital funding for cancer research in Fiscal Year 2027?

Prevention Only Question:

- The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program has provided women with breast and cervical cancer screening and follow-up care for decades, yet it remains underfunded, leaving millions of women at risk. This is a gold standard program utilizing proven prevention and early detection methods to increase the number of women diagnosed with cancer at earlier stages and can then go on to live healthy, happy, and productive lives. Will you commit to ensuring this program has the funding it needs to meet the needs of people across our district?

Protect Cancer Cures Meeting Script Spring/Summer 2026

Opening the Meeting:

First, I want to thank you for this opportunity to meet with you to share the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's (ACS CAN) legislative priorities to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Cancer has touched all of us in one way or another, and for years Congress has demonstrated a bipartisan, bicameral commitment to reliable funding for the fight against cancer. We know we cannot stand still in the fight against cancer; we must continue to push forward to see progress against this disease. Increased funding for the fight against cancer is critical to that progress. Ensuring our researchers have the funds they need to keep up with the pace of science; ensuring patients have access to early detection and cutting-edge treatments through clinical trials; and making sure our nation maintains its long-standing leadership in medical innovation are all part of that progress. Now is the time to invest in our future and ensure we keep moving forward in the fight against cancer.

Our Ask: Support the highest possible funding for cancer research & prevention programs in the FY 27 Labor-HHS funding bill.

Specifically:

- \$51.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including \$7.99 billion for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI); additionally,
- \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H); and
- \$482.9 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cancer programs, including \$230 million for the National Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

Hook:

Now, we'd like to introduce ourselves. [Have everyone briefly state their name, where they live.]

Line:

Share your cancer story and how it relates to the asks. Whether it be a cancer treatment, breakthrough, family history, clinical trial participation, or cancer screening story, share how cancer has touched your life and connect it to why it is important to prioritize cancer research and prevention funding and the need to increase access to clinical trials. 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.

Sinker:

To summarize, we are asking you to: Support the highest possible funding for cancer research and prevention programs with \$51.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), \$7.99 billion for cancer research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), \$1.5 billion for Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), \$482.9 million for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) cancer prevention programs). And cosponsor H.R. 3521, the Clinical Trials Modernization Act.

Can we count on your support?

Ending the Meeting:

Remember to end with a thank you.

- Thank the member or staffer for their time.
- Give the member or staffer the leave behind folder with the federal agenda and fact sheets.
- Let them know you will follow up.
- Ask for a photo.

Report Back:

Be sure to fill out the report back form at www.fightcancer.org/reportback. Share any intel you learned about the member's connection to cancer and support on ACS CAN's legislative priorities.

Post on Social Media:

.[insert lawmaker handle], thank you for meeting with [insert ACS CAN state handle] to talk about protecting cancer cures through funding cancer research. #CancerAdvocacy @ACSCAN [optional-include photo]

Great meeting with [insert lawmaker handle] today about @ACSCAN's legislative priorities to #ProtectCancerCures. We look forward to your support to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. [insert ACS CAN state handle] [optional-include photo]

.[insert lawmaker handle], thank you for meeting with us today. Let's work together to make #CancerResearch a priority in FY27. @ACSCAN #CancerAdvocacy



TAKE ACTION

Sign the petition.

Progress in the fight against cancer is possible, but not guaranteed. Cancer research is delivering lifesaving breakthroughs, treatments and cures, but that progress depends on consistent increased federal funding. Cancer patients and their families cannot wait. Reject any cuts to funding and increase cancer research funding in the next budget bill.

Congress: Progress is Possible, Fund Cures



**YOU CAN TAKE ACTION TODAY AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
MEMBERS TO DO THE SAME.**

**SUPPORT CANCER CURES OF
TOMORROW BY FUNDING
CANCER RESEARCH TODAY**



Text CURES to 73508

**EVERY CANCER CURE
STARTS WITH FEDERALLY
FUNDED RESEARCH**



Text CURES to 73508

Protect Cancer Cures Call Script Spring/Summer 2026

Call your members of Congress and tell them to protect cancer cures!

Progress in the fight against cancer is at risk without reliable, sustained funding for cancer research. By prioritizing cancer research funding, Congress can invest in our future and ensure we keep moving forward – not standing still – in the fight against cancer.

Follow this QR code for instructions on how to place a call to your members of Congress.



Recommended scripting when placing your calls:

"Hi, my name is [your name] and I live at [full address]. As a constituent, I'm calling to urge my lawmaker to stand up for continued progress in the fight against cancer. As Congress works on funding levels of Fiscal Year 2027, I urge you to support the highest possible funding for cancer research at NIH and NCI and cancer prevention programs at the CDC. Progress is possible in the fight against cancer, but not guaranteed. That's why we need increased funding for cancer research. Thank you."

Protect Cancer Cures Template Letters to the Editor Spring/Summer 2026

Option 1:

As a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, I'm asking (INSERT MEMBER NAME) to work to ensure Congress continues its bipartisan commitment to cancer research and prevention funding this year. Cancer remains a leading cause of death in the United States, with more than 2.1 million new cases and more than 626,000 cancer deaths expected in 2026 alone. These are not just statistics, they represent families, neighbors and communities impacted each day.

I was proud that Congress demonstrated what is possible when lawmakers from both parties came together last year. That bipartisan effort led to increased investments in lifesaving cancer research and prevention programs. Those decisions matter. They accelerate breakthroughs, improve early detection and expand access to care.

Now is not the time to slow down. Strong, predictable funding ensures researchers can keep making progress and patients can have hope for better outcomes. I ask (INSERT MEMBER NAME) to build on last year's momentum and reaffirm their commitment to fighting cancer. Lives depend on it.

Option 2:

Cancer touches nearly every American family, which is why robust federal investment in research and prevention is so critical. As a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, I'm calling on (INSERT MEMBER NAME) to help ensure Congress maintains its bipartisan commitment to this fight. This year alone, more than 2.1 million people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cancer including (INSERT STATE FIGURE) right here in (INSERT STATE).

Last year, I was proud to see Congress demonstrate what is possible when leaders work together. Their bipartisan support helped ensure increased funding for cancer research and prevention that saves lives through innovation, screening and education.

The work is far from over. Progress against cancer depends on steady, reliable funding that allows scientists to pursue new treatments and communities to access preventive services. Any delays in support would risk reversing hard-earned gains. Congress must once again come together to prioritize this funding. The stakes are simply too high to do otherwise.

Option 3:

As a volunteer with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, I'm urging (MEMBER NAME) to remain committed to providing increased funding for cancer research and prevention funding. Cancer remains a leading cause of death in the United States, with more than 2.1 million new cases expected this year alone.

Over the last 30 years, substantial and steady increases in federal cancer research funding have fueled discovery and innovation, contributing to a 34% decline in cancer mortality rates. That progress did not happen by accident, it is a direct result of consistent, bipartisan investment in science and public health.

Last year, I was proud that Congress showed what is possible when lawmakers come together, continuing to invest in cancer research and prevention. These investments don't only advance new treatments, they also strengthen local economies by creating jobs, supporting research institutions and driving innovation in communities across the country.

Congress must build on last year's momentum. I'm hopeful that (MEMBER NAME) will continue to be a champion for cancer patients, survivors and their families. Robust funding saves lives and supports economic growth. We cannot afford to go backward in the fight against cancer.