

# CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS  
ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

December 10, 2018

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bilirakis and Lujan:

The undersigned organizations of the Cancer Leadership Council are writing to express their strong support for H.R. 6836, the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act. This legislation will require that Medicaid programs cover the routine patient care costs for those who are enrolled in clinical trials. We have been engaged for many years in advocacy to ensure third-party payment for care provided in clinical trials, and we applaud your efforts to set this standard of coverage for Medicaid recipients.

As you know, clinical trials are a critical element of the American health care system. Clinical trials fuel treatment advances, including new drugs and other therapies, and also provide individual patients access to cutting-edge treatments through clinical trials enrollment. In the case of cancer, the strong public investment in cancer research and development (including a strong clinical trials network), the leadership of innovative pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, the creativity and commitment of clinical researchers, and the altruism of clinical trials participants have combined to foster important improvements in cancer treatment. However, the system is challenged if third-party payment for routine patient care costs is denied.

As a result of a Medicare policy established through an Executive Memorandum and coverage determination and a private insurance coverage policy established through a provision of the Affordable Care Act, or ACA (and by voluntary coverage standards prior to the ACA), many Americans can rest assured that they can participate in clinical trials. Unfortunately, Medicaid recipients cannot be certain that their care costs will be covered, because of the patchwork of coverage standards across state Medicaid programs.

Your legislation will address the coverage gap for many Medicaid recipients and will eliminate a disparity in access to clinical trials that currently exists. We are pleased that Medicaid recipients, including the roughly one-third of children with a cancer diagnosis who rely on Medicaid for their care, will see the financial barrier to clinical trials participation eliminated.

The legislation will protect clinical trials enrollment for Medicaid recipients and strengthen the clinical trials enterprise. We commend your leadership in introducing this important legislation, and we will urge your colleagues to lend their enthusiastic support to HR 6836, the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act.

Sincerely,

**Cancer Leadership Council**

Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
CancerCare  
Cancer Support Community  
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
International Myeloma Foundation  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
LIVESTRONG Foundation  
LUNgevity  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Sarcoma Foundation of America  
Susan G. Komen