

# The Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act of 2021 (H.R. 4414)

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## ▶ Background

- Bipartisan legislation introduced July 2021
- Introduced by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Congressman Buddy Carter (R-GA)
- Both are co-chairs of the Congressional Cancer Survivors Caucus
- Currently 9 cosponsors in the House – seeking additional cosponsors
- Seeking Senate champions to introduce companion legislation



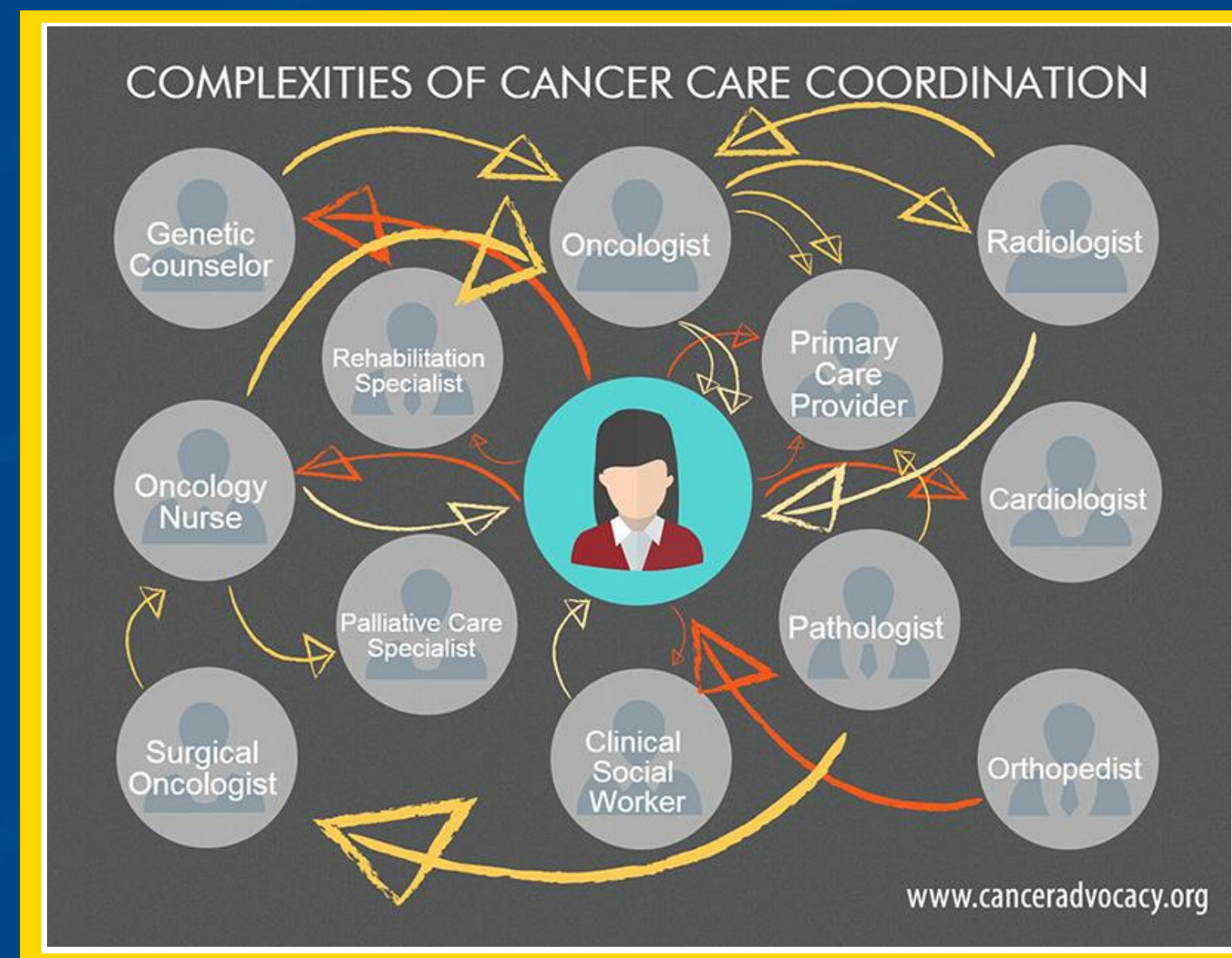
## ▶ What Does the CCPCA Do?

- The CCPCA would establish a new Medicare service and payment for cancer care planning.
- Cancer survivors would receive the care plan:
  - At diagnosis
  - When there is a change in their treatment plan
  - When active treatment is complete (i.e. a survivorship care plan)



## ► Need for the CCPCA

- Cancer care planning has been identified as an element of quality cancer care.
- The National Academy of Medicine, medical professional societies, and cancer patients have embraced the idea that all patients should receive a treatment plan from their care team.
- Most cancer patients do not receive a written plan, which leaves them to navigate their cancer diagnosis without clear direction.



## Benefits of the CCPCA

- Will help cancer patients by supplying them a tangible plan or roadmap.
- Will promote shared decision-making between patients and their cancer care teams so patients are not left in the dark.
- Will empower patients with information necessary to help manage and coordinate their care.
- Will help providers deliver the right care at the right time, better coordinate a patient's care, and use resources effectively.

### CANCER CARE PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS ACT (CCPCA)

Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), a cancer survivor, and Congressman Buddy Carter (R-GA) introduced H.R. 4414, the Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act, or CCPCA, bipartisan legislation to establish a Medicare service for cancer care planning.

Cancer care planning has been identified as an element of quality cancer care for all Americans. The National Academy of Medicine, medical professional societies, and cancer patients have embraced the idea that all patients should receive a treatment plan from the cancer care team.

- **Benefit to patients:** Provides information patients need to make treatment decisions, coordinates their care, and effectively transition from active treatment to survivorship.
- **Benefit to providers:** Helps ensure the patient is receiving the right care at the right time, care is coordinated, and resources are used effectively.
- **Benefit to the health care system:** Ensures appropriate and effective use of cancer care resources and encourages delivery of high-quality, coordinated care.

#### HOW WOULD THIS LEGISLATION ENCOURAGE CANCER CARE PLANNING?

The legislation would establish a new Medicare service for cancer care planning. A plan can be developed and shared with the Medicare beneficiary at several points in the cancer care continuum, including:

- At the time of diagnosis, for the purposes of planning initial active treatment;
- When there is any substantial change in the condition of the individual, recurrence of disease, changes in the individual's treatment preferences, or significant revision of the elements of curative care or symptom management for the individual; and
- At the completion of primary treatment for cancer - when the plan may serve as a follow-up survivorship care plan.

#### URGENT NEED FOR CANCER CARE PLANNING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The pandemic resulted in significant early disruptions to cancer care. Treatment and surgeries were delayed, screening for cancer has been postponed dramatically, and vulnerable patients were initially urged to stay away from oncology clinics. Providers made important adjustments to their practices, to protect patients and themselves, and cancer care is resuming significantly.



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) granted flexibility to providers for the use of telehealth services, and private payers have followed suit. Patients and providers are generally applauding the use of telehealth in cancer care, and experts believe that telehealth is an innovation that will last beyond the pandemic.

However, cancer patients need a treatment plan to protect against disruptions in care, duplication of care, and gaps in the coordination of care.

**Cancer care planning, which was an important and needed reform before the COVID-19 pandemic, is now an urgent necessity.**

# ▶ The Meeting

- **Brief introductions**
  - Share your name, city, connection to cancer, and that you're an NCCCS advocate
- **State the purpose of the meeting**
  - Share that you're advocating for the Cancer Care Planning and Communications Act
- **Share your story**
- **Make the ask (OR thank them if they are a cosponsor)**
  - House: Will you cosponsor the CCPCA?
  - Senate: Would you be willing to champion the Senate version of the legislation?

**Telling Your Story: A Step-by-Step Worksheet**

People have been telling stories since human beings first sat around campfires. We are hard-wired to take in new information through stories.

Statistics reach people in the head. Stories hit people in the heart. Sharing your personal experience is a powerful way to establish a connection and drive your listener to action. Your audience (e.g., elected officials, donors, the media, other volunteers) may disagree with your facts or arguments, but they cannot argue with your unique personal experience.

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The below steps are based on research in effective storytelling, but you should tailor them to your own circumstances.

**1. Hi. I'm name from place.**  
*If meeting with a Congress Member, identify yourself as living in their district.*

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**2. My life changed when [describe your diagnosis or a loved one's.]**  
*Example: A free mammography screening van came to my work one day.*  
*Example: My sister was having headaches and didn't know why. It turned out to be a brain tumor.*

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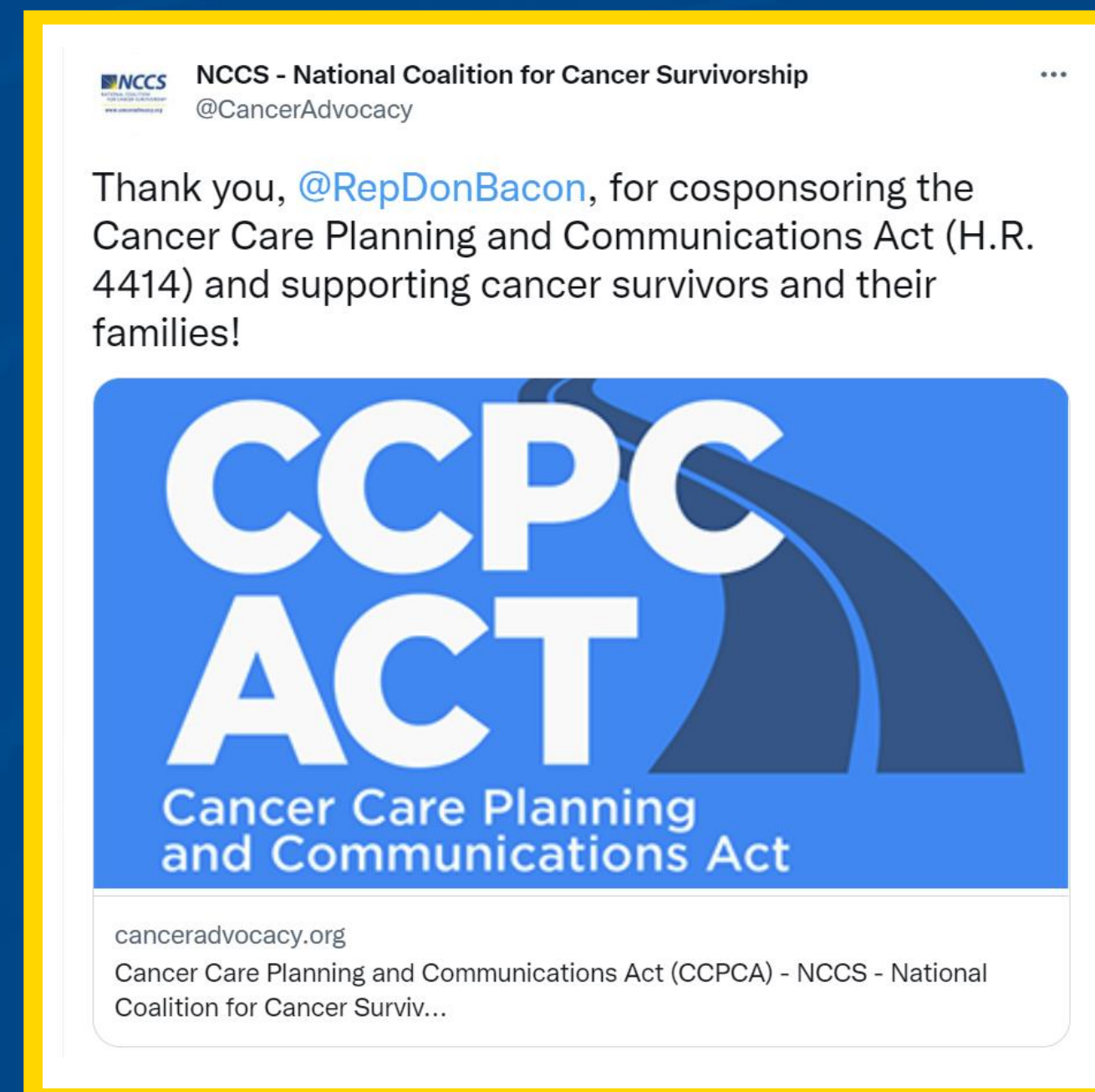
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## ▶ After the Meeting

- Tweet to thank your legislator for the meeting and restate the ask
- Send thank you emails with responses to any outstanding questions
- Follow up with staff on action items, if any
- If your Member takes action, thank them and their staff





# Virtual Hill Meetings

- NCCS is scheduling Hill meetings for those who registered to participate in Virtual Hill Week
- You will receive a meeting request from Ellie Donohue with the Zoom link
- NCCS staff may join meetings – let us know if you'd like a staff member there!
- Drop-in Q&A scheduled for July 11 from 4:00pm-5:00pm ET
- If your schedule changes, email Ellie at [edonohue@canceradvocacy.org](mailto:edonohue@canceradvocacy.org)
- NCCS is here to help





# Questions?

Email [hsmoot@canceradvocacy.org](mailto:hsmoot@canceradvocacy.org)

