

SIoux RAPIDS BULLETIN PRESS

THE DAILY
REPORTER

THURSDAY

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Local residents meet with congressional officers in Washington

Pam Moffitt, of Galva, formerly of Sioux Rapids, traveled to Washington, D.C., on June 28 to ask Congress to improve cancer care. Advocates of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) called on representatives to co-sponsor the bipartisan Planning Actively for Cancer Treatment (PACT) Act, (H.R. 2846). Introduced by Rep. Lois Capps, D-Calif., a nurse and Rep. Charles Boustany, R-La., a surgeon, the PACT act would establish a new Medicare service for cancer care planning to be provided to patients at the time of diagnosis, when there is a sig-

nificant change in treatment and at the end of active treatment and beginning of long-term survivorship. The bill would also improve the coordination for care for Medicare patients with cancer.

"Having experienced cancer myself as a two-time lung cancer survivor, I know first hand the importance of cancer care planning and coordination," said Pam. "It is why I advocated on behalf of the PACT Act. This bipartisan legislation would encourage physicians to develop a personalized care plan with Medicare beneficiaries and to coordinate care among the many

specialists involved in a patient's treatment. The PACT Act would be a tremendous benefit to someone facing cancer."

In the meetings she urged staff for Representative King and Senators Grassley and Ernst to support the PACT Act as most cancer patients do not receive a written plan that explains their diagnosis, prognosis, treatments and expected symptoms, leaving them to navigate the complexities of a cancer diagnosis without clear direction or knowing what to expect from their care. This can affect the physical and emotional well-being of

patients, as well as increase costs because of fragmented care.

"The PACT Act has the potential to make a real difference in cancer care now," said NCCS Chief Executive Officer Shelley Fuld Nasso. "Medical providers want to deliver the best care possible, but in order to do that, the patient's wishes may be clearly understood. By encouraging deliberate discussion and planning before, during and after the treatment, we can help make cancer survivors and — the health system that cares for them — better."

For more information about the PACT Act, visit cancerplanact.org.

Little Miss and Mr. nominee votes needed

It's time to place your vote for the Little Miss and Mr. Sioux Rapids Chamber of Commerce for Tall Corn Days. The winners will be in the Tall Corn Days parade on Aug. 6.

Nominate your favorite 3- to 6-year-old to represent the Chamber. Deadline is July 29.

Voting locations include: Casey's General Store, Sioux Food Center, Wagon Wheel and the Sioux Rapids library.