

Cancer Nation Hill Day Prep

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Today We'll Cover:

- Hill Day logistics
- Congressional meeting best practices
- Our legislative priorities
- Telling your story effectively
- Q&A

Hill Day Logistics

- 7:30 Hill Day Kick-Off at hotel
- 9-3:30 Congressional meetings
- AdvocacyDay App (same as last year)
- *Virtual Meet & Greet – Thurs 6/18 at 3PM*
- *Hill Day Prep – Wed 6/24 from 3:30 –5:15PM at the Summit*

Why Your Voice Matters

- Members of Congress hear from policy experts every day.
- They need to hear from the people most affected by their decisions.
- Your personal experience helps policymakers understand the real-world impact of cancer policy.

What Makes a Successful Meeting?

- ✓ Share your story
- ✓ Connect your experience to policy
- ✓ Make a clear ask
- ✓ Listen and engage
- ✓ Build a relationship

*Remember: Success is not measured by an immediate "yes."
Success is ensuring the office understands why these issues matter.*

Tell Your Story

A strong advocacy story includes

- Who you are
- Your experience
- Why it matters
- The policy solution

Keep it personal,
authentic, and concise.



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 may disagree with your facts or arguments, but they cannot argue with your unique personal experience. The steps below are based on research in effective storytelling, but you should tailor them to your own circumstances. This worksheet is intended to help you hone your story to a short “elevator pitch” and connect it with the policy ask for Hill Day.

1. Hi. I'm [name] from [place].

If meeting with a member of Congress, identify yourself as a constituent who lives in their district.

2. My life changed when [describe your diagnosis or a loved one's or your work in health care].

Example: I had to undergo multiple surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy, which took a physical and mental toll on me. I had to continue working during my treatment in order to keep my health insurance.

Example: As my father's primary caregiver when he was diagnosed with cancer, I had to navigate a complex health care system that I knew little about, while I continued to work and care for my children.

Example: I entered medical school and learned about the challenges cancer patients face during their treatment, including the huge financial burden cancer causes survivors and their families.

Tell Your Story (continued)

4. It would have been easier if [describe the obstacle to quality care you faced, preferably one addressed by the Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Act].

Example: My cancer care experience could have been better if I had access to cancer care planning and coordination services. Without these services, I struggled to coordinate my care and felt lost in the process.

5. I am not alone. There are more than 18 million Americans just like me.

Example: Today, I am a cancer survivor who is passionate about helping other survivors access the care and support they need. Others, just like me, would benefit from the bill's employment assistance grants. This targeted assistance can help survivors facing employment challenges remain financially stable.

Example: Today, I am a cancer survivor who is grateful for the care and treatment I received. More than 600,000 Americans will die from cancer this year. We can't let up on the medical research that has allowed me and millions of others to survive cancer, and we need to find more treatments so that families do not have to lose loved ones to cancer.

Legislative Priority #1

H.R. 8839: The Lainie Jones Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Act

Nearly 18 million Americans are living with, through, and beyond cancer. Yet too many survivors face challenges accessing coordinated care, support services, and resources after treatment ends.

Our Ask: Please support and cosponsor this bill (H.R.8839)

If they are already sponsors, thank them for their support. Currently there are 13 cosponsors in the [House](#), it has not been introduced in the Senate.

Legislative Priority #1

H.R. 8839: The Lainie Jones Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Act (continued)

- The Lainie Jones Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Act (HR 8839) was introduced May 13 by Representatives Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), and Joe Wilson (R-SC)
 - Medicare Coverage of Care Planning & Coordination Services
 - Stakeholder Meeting on Survivorship Transition Tools
 - Alternative Payment Model for Quality Cancer Survivorship Care
 - Cancer Survivor Employment Assistance Program
 - Survivorship Progress Report
 - Medicaid Coverage of Healthcare Transitions for Survivors of Childhood and Adolescent Cancer
 - Medicaid Coverage of Cancer Fertility Services for Cancer Survivors
 - Office of Cancer Survivorship

Legislative Priority #2

FY27 Cancer Research Funding

The Ask

Protect federal funding for cancer research by providing at least \$51.3 billion for the NIH, increasing NCI funding, and supporting CDC cancer programs.

Why It Matters

- Federal research funding drives breakthroughs in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and survivorship.
- Investments in NIH, NCI, and CDC programs help improve outcomes and save lives for millions of Americans affected by cancer.
- Proposed cuts threaten progress at a time when continued innovation and public health investments are critically needed.

Key Takeaway

Federal investment in cancer research saves lives; Congress must protect and strengthen funding for NIH, NCI, and CDC cancer programs in FY27.

Before You Leave Every Meeting

Ask the office to:

1. Support & cosponsor H.R. 8839 (CCSA)
2. Protect & strengthen FY27 Cancer Research Funding
3. Stay engaged with Cancer Nation

After Your Meeting

1. Take a photo
2. Complete meeting feedback in the app
3. Continue building the relationship

Advocacy is a marathon, not a sprint.