

XXXX, 2018

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis and Representative Lujan,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing patients, medical researchers, providers, survivors and their families, thank you for introducing H.R. 6836, the *CLINICAL TREATMENT Act*. As organizations that value patient access to clinical trials, we are pleased to endorse your legislation, which would ensure states cover routine care costs of participation in an approved clinical trial for Medicaid enrollees with life-threatening conditions.

Medicaid insures nearly one-fifth of the US population and is the only major payer that is not required by federal law to cover routine costs associated with participation in clinical trials. This coverage is already assured for Medicare beneficiaries and for patients with private health insurance. Although twelve states require their Medicaid programs to cover these costs, there are still as many as 42.2 million Medicaid patients that are potentially without this needed coverage.

Routine costs include the non-experimental costs of treating a patient who is participating in a clinical trial, such as the cost of physician visits or laboratory tests. These costs are part of standard care and would be incurred regardless of whether a patient participates in a clinical trial. The cost of any investigative device or drug would continue to be covered by the trial sponsor. As such, this coverage would have little to no impact on the overall cost of care to Medicaid programs.

Importantly, clinical trials often provide patients with the best—perhaps only—treatment option for their condition. Without the guarantee of coverage, however, many Medicaid beneficiaries do not have the latest technological and scientific advancements as a treatment option.

Robust clinical trial participation improves the quality of medical research. Medicaid serves many demographics, including ethnic minorities, that are underrepresented in current clinical trial enrollment. Lack of participation in clinical trials from the Medicaid population means these patients are being excluded from potentially life-saving trials and are not reflected in the outcome of the clinical research. Increased access to clinical trial participation for Medicaid enrollees helps ensure medical research results more accurately capture and reflect the populations of this country.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We urge others in Congress to support your legislation and are eager to help you advance the *CLINICAL TREATMENT Act*.

Sincerely,