



July 13, 2026

The Honorable Tim Scott
U.S. Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
U.S. Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Scott and Warner:

On behalf of the undersigned 195 patient advocacy, public health, and provider organizations, we thank you for introducing S. 4440, the Clinical Trial Modernization Act, and express our strong support for this important legislation. This bill will increase access to clinical trials for underrepresented communities such as those in rural areas and/or those who are low income, reduce bureaucratic red tape, and enhance U.S. innovation and leadership in developing new treatments and therapies.

Clinical trials are essential to advancing new standards of care and improving survival and quality of life for people with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. However, enrollment remains a persistent challenge, particularly among underrepresented populations, including certain racial and ethnic groups, older adults, rural residents, and individuals with lower incomes.

Concerns about the cost of participation often prevent patients from enrolling. While insurers typically cover routine medical costs, patients may still face significant cost-sharing obligations, such as deductibles, copays, and coinsurance. Participants may also incur non-medical expenses such as transportation, lodging, and meals, particularly when trials require travel or frequent visits. These costs can be especially burdensome when local trials are unavailable or when participation requires frequent in-person monitoring. Patients receiving care at community cancer centers (where most cancer care is delivered) often have limited access to clinical trials and face greater travel-related burdens if they have to travel to more distant academic centers.

As a result, financial barriers contribute to gaps in clinical trial participation across income levels and geographies. A recent study shows that when comparing individuals making less than \$38,000 to those making over \$63,000 with prostate, kidney, and bladder cancer, lower-income individuals are 36%, 47%, and 71% less likely, respectively, to enroll in clinical trials for these diseases.¹

Studies also show that reimbursing patients for non-medical costs can increase overall enrollment and improve participation among underrepresented groups.² Although some trial sponsors provide such financial support, others refrain due to confusion around federal restrictions on patient incentives. Even when support is offered, patients—particularly those with lower incomes—may face unintended consequences, such as tax liability or the risk of losing eligibility for safety net programs like Medicaid.

The Clinical Trial Modernization Act directly addresses these barriers by making it easier for patients to participate in clinical trials. Specifically, the bill would:

- **Reduce economic barriers** by allowing sponsors to provide financial support for both non-medical costs (e.g., travel, lodging, and childcare) and medical costs (e.g., copays and coinsurance) associated with participation.
- **Expand remote participation** by enabling sponsors to provide remote patient monitoring tools, including necessary digital health technologies, at no cost.
- **Support enrollment of underrepresented groups** by authorizing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to issue grants for community education, outreach, and recruitment.

¹ Noel, O. D. V., Akgul, B., Bhandari, M., Ramos, F., Joshi, G., Garg, H., Dursun, F., & Mansour, A. (2026). Clinical trial participation in kidney, bladder, and prostate malignancies in the United States: Sociodemographic distribution and impact on survival. *Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations*, 44(6), 176–188. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.urolonc.2026.111065>

² Nipp, R. D., Lee, H., Powell, E., Birrer, N. E., Poles, E., Finkelstein, D., Winkfield, K., Percac-Lima, S., Chabner, B., & Moy, B. (2016). Financial Burden of Cancer Clinical Trial Participation and the Impact of a Cancer Care Equity Program. *The Oncologist*, 21(4), 467–474. <https://doi.org/10.1634/theoncologist.2015-0481>; Halpern, S. D., Chowdhury, M., Bayes, B., et al. (2021). Effectiveness and Ethics of Incentives for Research Participation 2 Randomized Clinical Trials. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 181(11), 1479–1488. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2021.5450>

- **Protects patients from financial harm** by excluding up to \$2,000 in non-reimbursed financial support from federal income tax and from eligibility considerations for safety net programs (e.g., Medicaid).

These provisions will help reduce bureaucratic and financial barriers to participation, increase accessibility to clinical trials, and ultimately strengthen U.S. leadership in medical innovation. By improving enrollment, the legislation will accelerate the development of new treatments, benefiting both trial participants and the broader public.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
 1Day Sooner
 Academy of Oncology Nurse & Patient Navigators
 Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research
 ADAP Advocacy Association
 Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Coalition
 Alabama Cancer Congress
 Alliance for Aging Research
 Alliance for Patient Access
 Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention
 American Association for Cancer Research
 American Association of Clinical Urology (AACU)
 American College of Chest Physicians
 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 American Liver Foundation
 American Lung Association
 American Pharmacists Association
 American Society for Transplantation & Cellular Therapy
 American Society of Hematology
 American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
 AnCan Foundation
 Anxiety and Depression Association of America
 Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
 Association for Clinical Oncology
 Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP)
 Association of American Cancer Institutes
 Association of Black Cardiologists
 Association of Cancer Care Centers

Association of Northern California Oncologists
 Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON)
 Bag It Cancer
 BioCytics Inc.
 Biomarker Collaborative
 Black Women's Health Imperative, Rare Disease Diversity Coalition
 BlackDoctor
 Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)
 BLKHLTH
 Blood Cancer United
 Bone Health & Osteoporosis Foundation
 Brem Foundation to Defeat Breast Cancer
 Cactus Cancer Society
 Cancer Active, Inc.
 Cancer Support Community
 CancerCare
 Caregiver Action Network
 Carolina BioOncology Institute, PLLC
 Cervivor, Inc.
 Cheeky Charity
 Children's Cancer Cause
 Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
 Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation
 CLL Society
 Coalition of Skin Diseases
 Colon Cancer Coalition
 Colorectal Cancer Alliance
 Columbia University Irving Medical Center
 Community Access National Network
 Community Oncology Alliance (COA)

Deadliest Cancers Coalition
 Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF)
 Delta for Women in Action
 Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
 Derma Care Access Network
 Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc.
 Diabetes Leadership Council
 Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
 Epilepsy Foundation of America
 Esophageal Cancer Action Network (ECAN)
 Exon 20 Group
 Fight Colorectal Cancer
 FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
 Friends of Cancer Research
 Gaucher Community Alliance
 GI Cancers Alliance
 Global Colon Cancer Association
 GO2 for Lung Cancer
 Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
 Health, Hope & Hip-Hop Foundation
 HealthTree Foundation
 Heart Valve Voice US
 Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
 Highlander Health
 Hope for Heather - ovarian cancer foundation
 Hope for Stomach Cancer
 ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
 Illinois Medical Oncology Society (IMOS)
 Infinite Strength
 International Myeloma Foundation
 International Pemphigus & Pemphigoid Foundation
 Kesem
 Kidney Cancer Association
 KidneyCAN
 Latinas Contra Cancer
 League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
 LESLIE'S WEEK a Stage 4 Breast Cancer Nonprofit
 Livestrong
 Living Beyond Breast Cancer
 Looms For Lupus
 LUNgevity Foundation
 Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
 Lupus Foundation of America
 Lupus Foundation of America, Texas Gulf Coast chapter
 Lymphedema Advocacy Group
 Lymphoma Research Foundation

Male Breast Cancer Global Alliance
 Malecare Cancer Support
 Maryland & DC Society of Clinical Oncology
 Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, Inc. (MOASC)
 Melanoma Research Alliance
 Melanoma Research Foundation
 Men's Health Network
 MET Crusaders
 METAvivor
 Mission MSA
 Mississippi Oncology Society
 Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard (MRCT Center)
 Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
 Myasthenia Gravis Association
 NAACP
 National Alliance for Caregiving
 National Alliance of State Prostate Cancer Coalitions
 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
 National Association of Hispanic Nurses
 National Black Nurses Association, Inc.
 National Bone Marrow Transplant Link
 National Brain Tumor Society
 National Cancer Registrars Association
 National Coalition for Infant Health
 National Comprehensive Cancer Network
 National Consumers League
 National Council of Urban Indian Health
 National Foundation for Cancer Research
 National Health Council
 National Hispanic Health Foundation
 National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
 National Indian Health Board
 National Kidney Foundation
 National LGBT Cancer Project
 National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)
 National Minority Quality Forum
 National Oncology State Network
 National Patient Advocate Foundation
 National Psoriasis Foundation
 National Rural Health Association
 National Scleroderma Foundation
 National Urban League
 NCODA
 Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
 Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc.
 Oncology Nursing Society

ONE CANCER PLACE - the address for CancerWorld™
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)
Patient Empowerment Network
Pennsylvania Prostate Cancer Coalition (PPCC)
PlusInc
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Prostate Health Education Network, Inc.
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
Raymond Foundation
Rural Minds
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Sharsheret | The Jewish Breast & Ovarian Cancer
Community
SherCare
Sisters Network Inc.
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists (SUMO)
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Stupid Cancer, Inc.
Susan G. Komen
TargetCancer Foundation
Team PHeNomenal Hope
The Breasties
The Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Consortium
The Sumaira Foundation
Theresa's Reseach
Tigerlily Foundation
TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance
Triage Cancer
Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation
Twisted Pink
Unite for HER
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
wAIHA Warriors
Women As One
WomenHeart
Young Survival Coalition
Your Prostate Cancer.help
ZERO Prostate Cancer