

Sample letter to the Senate:

Senator XXX,

As an oncology professional in Michigan, I am writing to ask you to consider sponsoring the Senate companion to the CLINICAL TREATMENT Act, H.R. 913, which would provide Medicaid coverage of the routine care costs of clinical trials participation.

Clinical trials are a critical weapon in the fight against cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Without robust patient participation in these trials, research progress slows and Americans miss out on innovative new treatments.

Routine care costs include the non-experimental costs of treating a patient who is participating in a clinical trial, such as physician visits and laboratory studies. Since routine care costs typically cover treatment a patient with a life-threatening disease would receive off trial anyway, studies have shown this coverage has little or no impact on overall cost of care. The cost of the investigational device or drug would still be covered by the trial sponsor.

This coverage is already assured for Medicare beneficiaries as well as individuals with private insurance coverage, leaving Medicaid as the last major payer not required to do so.

Clinical trials often provide individuals with cancer with their best clinical option. Additionally, Medicaid serves a large portion of under-represented minorities and ethnicities that are not well represented in clinical trial enrollment. Diversity in clinical trials participation improves the validity research results. Addressing the coverage barrier that Medicaid patients face could improve existing disparities and help researchers obtain optimal results in clinical trials.

Please consider sponsoring legislation in the Senate that helps ensure participation in clinical research and continuing development of improved treatments for cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

Thank you.