



We've made a lot of progress this year, and we have YOU to thank!

Congress is now in its summer recess, so it's a good time to take stock of our advocacy efforts during the first session of the 116th Congress.

Here's what we've accomplished together thus far in 2019:

Funding for Research Over [4,000 of you signed a petition](#) asking for robust funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). We also advocated for increased funding for the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP), as well as funding for the programs contained in the Childhood Cancer STAR Act, which passed into law last year.

Results: The House of Representatives budget proposal plans to increase funding for the NIH by \$2 billion, and increase funding for the PRCRP to \$100 million. If passed, this will translate into millions of new dollars for brain tumor research.

What's Next: Look for an action alert in early September urging Congress to pass legislation and make the final push for the president's signature, cementing increases for expanded brain tumor research.

Palliative Care & Hospice Education & Training Act (PCHETA) This year, we added this new piece of legislation to our agenda, and our advocates at Head to the Hill included it as part of the "asks" during their meetings with members of Congress. In addition, a number of our advocates joined with NBTS staff as well as other disease organizations at the Patient Quality of Life Coalition lobby day on Capitol Hill. Finally, we gave you a chance to email your members of Congress to ask for their support of the bill.

Results: PCHETA was introduced in the Senate, one of the major goals of 2019. In addition, we saw a significant increase in cosponsors of PCHETA after Head to the Hill, thanks to our participants.

What's Next: With large bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, we hope to continue pushing this bill towards passage in the Fall. [Take action now](#) to make sure your representatives know that palliative care is important to the brain tumor community!

Clinical Treatment Act Earlier this year, NBTS advocates and staff joined other organizations at lobby days on Capitol Hill to advocate for passage of the Clinical Treatment Act, which would require Medicaid to cover the routine medical costs associated with clinical trial participation. This month, advocates across the country are meeting with their members of Congress while they're back home to ask for support of our entire legislative agenda, including the Clinical Treatment Act ([check out our toolkit to learn how you can too!](#)). In addition, many advocates have already emailed their members of Congress to ask that they cosponsor the Clinical Treatment Act.

Results: The Clinical Treatment Act continues to gain cosponsors and is seeing increased support in Congress.

What's Next?: We'll keep advocating throughout 2019 for passage of the Clinical Treatment Act. If you haven't already asked your member of Congress to cosponsor the Clinical Treatment Act and break down the barriers to clinical trials, [ask them now!](#)

Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act NBTS staff has been active in a coalition to support the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act, which would address the cost disparity between intravenous and oral chemotherapy. Patients should be able to affordably access the care they need, and we were pleased that this bill was introduced in both the House and Senate this spring.

Results: While this bill has been introduced in past years, we're seeing increased interest this Congressional session. Cosponsors are continuously being added to both the House and the Senate bill.

What's Next?: Look for more activity to support this bill in the coming months, including an upcoming action to increase cosponsors on the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act, as well as a way to share your story if you've been affected by high copays or coinsurance for oral chemotherapy.

Brain Tumor Awareness Resolutions Finally, while not part of our legislative agenda, NBTS was excited to work directly with a number of senators to pass two important resolutions -- one creating a new opportunity to honor and act on behalf of all those affected by glioblastoma, Glioblastoma Awareness Day, (S. Res. 245, Graham/Warren/McSally/Sinema/Markey/McConnell), and another to once again officially designate May as Brain Tumor Awareness Month in 2019 (S. Res. 258, Daines/Markey/Collins/Van Hollen/Warren).

We've come so far already in 2019, thanks to your dedication and hard work. We hope you'll be with us to continue making change for patients and their families throughout the rest of 2019.

With gratitude,

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