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October Update: Sign Up For Texts From NBTS + What's Happening in Congress

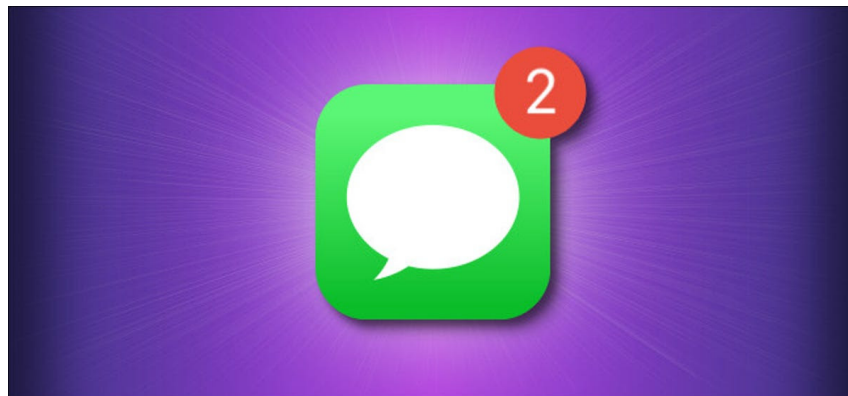
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Sign Up for Texts from NBTS



As we near the end of the year, we have a lot to be proud of as advocates for the brain tumor community. With the help of advocates like you, we've seen members of Congress continue to meet our expectations on research funding and build support for our legislative priorities. Looking forward to 2022, we know that there will be a continued need to urge Congress to fund biomedical research, improve access to care, and support patients and their families.

By texting "Brain Tumor" to 52886, you can sign up to receive alerts from the National Brain Tumor Society that will make it easier than ever to take action to advance these and other priorities, and receive information on major events like Head to the Hill. Sign up today!

[SIGN UP FOR TEXTS](#)

Fall Legislative Update



NBTS has been spearheading efforts to ensure that the needs of the brain tumor community are front and center as Congress and the administration work to move forward on these efforts. We will continue our efforts to protect patients' access to care and work to lower the cost of treatments. Here are a few other things to keep an eye on this fall:

Government Funding

Government funding for cancer research is always a top priority for the brain tumor community. Typically, that funding has to be renewed every year before it expires on September 30, but Congress has the option to extend it by passing a “continuing resolution”, which is what they did this year to prevent a government shutdown through December 3. By then, Congress will have to agree to pass either new funding bills or *another* continuing resolution to keep the government open. There are some exciting developments, such as the passage of the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act 2.0 in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, that indicate that Congress is listening to advocates about the urgent need for more research and funding. We’ll keep you updated on the latest, but we hope Congress will avoid a shutdown and act to once again increase funding for research through agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, and Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program.

Patient Access to Care

The House and Senate have been hard at work drafting legislation to enact pieces of President Biden’s “Build Back Better” agenda into law. We’ve sent letters to the [Biden administration](#) and [Senate Finance Committee](#) urging them to improve access to care for brain tumor patients. While it’s still unclear what will be included in any final legislation, or if they will be successful in passing legislation at all, we have heard that they are considering including some of our priorities such as financial support for caregivers (the Credit for Caring Act), and policies that would help reduce the cost of treatments for cancer. We’ll be sure to provide further updates as we learn more.

Action Alert: Cancer Drug Parity Act



The Cancer Drug Parity Act was recently introduced in the House of Representatives as H.R. 4385 by Representatives Brian Higgins, Brett Guthrie, Doris Matsui, Gus Bilirakis, Joseph Morelle, and Glenn Grothman. Its aim is to reduce the burden of drug costs for cancer patients and their families.

Many health insurance companies have designed their plans so that if a patient is using chemotherapy or another anti-cancer drug in a pill form, or that they administer themselves, they have to pay more in cost-sharing for the drug than they would if it were administered to them in the hospital by a doctor. This difference in how these life-sustaining medicines are classified can result in hundreds or thousands of extra dollars in out-of-pocket costs for patients and their families.

The Cancer Drug Parity Act would correct this by requiring insurers to charge the same cost-sharing for oral anti-cancer drugs that they do for those administered in doctor's offices or hospitals. The savings for people living with brain tumors would be substantial, ultimately helping to relieve some of the financial burden that families facing cancer treatment have to shoulder.

[Contact your Representative now and ask them to cosponsor the Cancer Drug Parity Act, H.R. 4385!](#)

TAKE ACTION

National Brain Tumor Society unrelentingly invests in, mobilizes, and unites our community to discover a cure, deliver effective treatments, and advocate for patients and care partners. Our vision is to conquer and cure brain tumors - once and for all.

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