

LYMPHOMA

RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

2011 Public Policy Agenda

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) is the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to funding innovative research and providing people with lymphoma and healthcare professionals with up-to-date information about this type of cancer. LRF's mission is to eradicate lymphoma and serve those touched by this disease.

The Foundation's national public policy and advocacy priorities reflect these objectives. Specifically, LRF supports policy measures that will increase federal funding for lymphoma research and education and ensure access to high quality lymphoma care. LRF is committed to advocating on behalf of the entire lymphoma community, working collaboratively with policymakers, the medical community, patient advocates and other stakeholders at the state and federal levels to advance legislative, regulatory and programmatic efforts that will improve the lives of lymphoma patients and survivors. As part of these efforts, LRF seeks the integration of the lymphoma community's perspective throughout the policy-making process and urges that lymphoma patients, survivors and their loved ones be appointed to relevant federal panels, committees, commissions and boards.

Below is a summary of LRF policy goals and priorities for 2011.

Federal Investment in Lymphoma Research and Education

Greater federal support for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including significant growth in funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI), is necessary to provide investigators with the resources they require to accelerate the progress of research that will ultimately lead to new and innovative treatments for lymphoma and other cancer types. In addition to increasing the amount of federal monies dedicated to lymphoma research through NIH and NCI, supporting new opportunities for investment in lymphoma research is vital.

The federal government is also in a position to support the creation and distribution of education and support materials related to lymphoma, the most common form of blood cancer. Supporting the development of more effective education methods and tools for patients, scientists, health care professionals and other care providers are essential to reducing cancer incidence and mortality and improving the quality of life for cancer survivors.

- Toward the objective of strengthening the federal commitment to lymphoma research and education, LRF calls upon Congress to:
- Provide increased funding to NIH in FY 2012, to improve the nation's health, advance the U.S. medical research enterprise, and support groundbreaking advances in the treatment of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.
- Increase the NCI budget commensurate with increases in the overall NIH budget.
- Expand blood cancer research opportunities within the Department of Defense.
- Maintain and protect federal support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Blood Cancer Education Program.

Access to Quality and Comprehensive Lymphoma Treatment and Survivorship Care

Lymphoma patients across the United States do not have equal access to quality cancer care. Because numerous factors influence access to cancer care, LRF supports public policies which ensure equal access to treatment for lymphoma patients and survivors and the development tools to help physicians and researchers improve the quality of cancer care in America.

To address barriers to access to quality cancer care, LRF recommends that:

- Every lymphoma patient should receive adequate information about their disease, possible interventions and the known benefits and risks of specific treatment options.
- Congress, the President and his administration work ensure that all individuals, including lymphoma patients and survivors, have affordable access to qualified physicians and medical staff, quality health care facilities, cancer treatment and prescription medications.
- Congress ensures that cancer patients have equality of access (and equality of insurance coverage) to all approved anticancer regimens including, but not limited to oral and intravenous drugs, injections, surgery, radiation and transplantation.
- The federal government and its relevant agencies support access for cancer patients to clinical research studies and that NIH and NCI increase lymphoma patient access to clinical trials by implementing policies which support trials for rare diseases.
- Congress creates a dedicated funding stream for comprehensive, medically-accurate cancer survivor education, including funding for survivorship health services research.