

**Chronic Disease Day  
Legislative Agenda  
117<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session**



**About Chronic Disease Day**

Chronic diseases account for 7 of the top 10 causes of death in America and more than 90 percent of our annual healthcare spending. Hundreds of thousands of Americans who suffer from unpreventable chronic conditions need access to care. But the deadliest and costliest chronic diseases are also the most preventable. We promote actionable resources to lower the rate of preventable chronic diseases so that our healthcare system can better support individuals with unpreventable chronic conditions and invisible illnesses.

**Advocate for Chronic Disease & Invisible Illness**

Chronic Disease Day is an opportunity for legislators to pledge to address issues that impact across the entire chronic disease community. These issues include funding needed medical research and public health programs and advancing legislation that supports a patient's ability to access the care they need. While we reflect on recent progress and opportunities for further advancement around July 10<sup>th</sup>, our community of supporters work year-round to educate policymakers about contemporary issues and to use our stories and collective voice to advocate for issues that impact across the chronic disease community.

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Funding Recommendations**

- Please provide the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with \$46.1 billion for FY 2022, a \$3.2 billion funding increase over FY 2021. NIH research is the key to advancing our scientific understanding of various chronic diseases and systematically improving health outcomes for patients.
- Please provide the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with at least \$10 billion to facilitate timely public health efforts on a variety of conditions.
  - Please triple funding for CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) over the next three years to bring total funding up to \$3.75 billion annually.
    - Please provide \$5 million for NCCDPHP's new Chronic Disease Education and Awareness program for FY 2022, a \$3.5 million increase over FY 2021.

**Legislation and Policy Requests**

- Please cosponsor the *Safe Step Act* (S. 464/ H.R. 2163) by contacting the offices of Senators Murkowski (R-AK) or Hassan (D-NH) in the Senate, or Congressmen Raul Ruiz D-CA-36) or Brad Wenstrup (R-OH-2) in the House. This important legislation seeks to restrict “fail first” and step therapy practices that can be applied arbitrarily to harm patients with chronic medical conditions. This bill provides guardrails that seek to support clinical judgment and preserve the doctor-patient relationship.
- Please cosponsor the *Chronic Condition Copay Elimination Act* (H.R. 4371) by contacting the office of Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (D-IL). This important legislation seeks to address out of pocket cost issues for patients impacted by a variety of chronic conditions.

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- Please support the *Access to Charitable Assistance Act* by contacting the office of Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND). This important upcoming legislation removes arbitrary barriers that undermine patient access to third-party charitable assistance.