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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AACI Urges Congress to Pass the Clinical Trial Modernization Act

Bipartisan legislation would reduce financial and geographic barriers to access for patients with cancer

The [Association of American Cancer Institutes](#) (AACI) urges Congress to pass the [Clinical Trial Modernization Act](#) (S. 4440). The bipartisan legislation was introduced in the Senate for the 119th Congress last month by Senators **Tim Scott (R-SC)** and **Mark Warner (D-VA)**; it was introduced in the House in May 2025 as H.R. 3521 by Representatives **Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA)** and **August Pfluger (R-TX)**.

The bill would enable clinical trial sponsors to cover costs associated with trial participation, including copays, travel, food, and lodging; and provide patients with technology to allow them to participate remotely in clinical trials.

Data from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network show that approximately [20 percent of cancer clinical trials fail due to inadequate enrollment](#). As a result, some populations, including older adults, people with lower incomes, certain racial and ethnic groups, and residents of rural and frontier areas are not proportionately represented in clinical research data.

AACI President **Joann B. Sweasy, PhD**, has witnessed these disparities firsthand as director of Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, in Omaha, which largely serves patients in rural and frontier regions of Nebraska.

“A primary driver of poor cancer outcomes is limited access at key stages across the cancer care continuum – from prevention and risk reduction to clinical trials and treatment,” said Dr. Sweasy, whose [AACI presidential initiative](#) is focused on improving access to cancer care. “The Clinical Trial Modernization Act represents an important step toward leveling the playing field for all patients with cancer, making it easier for them to reap the benefits of cancer research.”

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The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) represents over 100 premier academic and freestanding cancer centers in the United States and Canada. AACI is accelerating progress against cancer by enhancing the impact of academic cancer centers and promoting cancer health equity. Learn more at aaci-cancer.org.