



Legislative Agenda 117th Congress, 1st Session

The Stage IV Stampede is a flagship event honoring National Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day that represents a national grassroots movement to raise awareness of metastatic stage IV cancer, educate policymakers about the challenges faced by affected individuals, and advocate for advancing medical research and improving care. The Stampede welcomes anyone who is interested in standing up, speaking out, and using their voice to improve health, wellness, and survivability for the stage IV metastatic cancer community.

METAvivor is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining hope for those living with stage IV metastatic cancer. This terminal disease occurs when breast cancer spreads beyond the breast to other organs in the body (most often the bones, lungs, liver or brain). METAvivor is a volunteer-led, grassroots-driven organization that funds vital research to help improve the longevity and quality of life for affected individuals. Passionately committed patients ourselves, we rally public attention to the urgent needs of this community, help patients find strength through support and purpose, and make every dollar count as we work with researchers to advance our scientific understanding of controlling and eliminating cancer that has disseminated to other areas of the body from the original site and to extend and improve quality of life for patients.

Each year, almost 600,000 Americans die from **metastatic stage IV cancer**. Metastatic cancer can develop from any cancer. It becomes metastatic cancer when it spreads to other parts of the body and activates. Recent scientific breakthroughs in cancer research and improvements in detection and prevention have not benefited the metastatic stage IV cancer community. Treatment options are extremely limited and the condition for most cancers is not considered survivable. Presently, science has very few answers to the question of why cancer metastasizes and there are no therapies that permanently arrest metastatic growth. With emerging opportunities, including precision medicine and the “moonshot” initiatives, there is tremendous opportunity to advance science and improve health outcomes for the metastatic stage IV cancer community through meaningful financial support for critical research activities.

2021 Legislative and Policy Recommendations

Advance Research

- Please provide the National Institutes of Health with a \$3.5 billion funding increase for Fiscal Year 2022, as proposed by the House). Moreover, please support timely efforts to assist the National Cancer Institute with fully modernizing the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End-Results Registry.
- Please support establishment of, and proper funding for, the new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).
- Please provide a meaningful funding increase for the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program, and please continue to include “metastatic cancers” as a condition eligible for study through the Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program.

Improve Care

- Please work with you colleagues to pass the bipartisan ***Metastatic Breast Cancer Access to Care Act (S.1312/H.R. 3183)***, which would fast-track disability and federal healthcare benefits for individuals with metastatic breast cancer.
- Please work with your colleagues to pass the bipartisan ***Cancer Drug Parity Act (H.R. 4385/ S. TBD)***, which would prevent manipulating treatment administration to increase patient cost-sharing responsibilities.