California's Miracle Makers: Fueling the Cancer "Moonshot"

"For the loved ones we've all lost, for the family we can still save, let's make America the country that cures cancer once and for all."

President Obama, 2016 State of the Union, announcing Cancer "Moonshot" Initiative

President Obama's announcement was an important milestone in the fight against cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1.7 million Americans will be diagnosed this year—nearly 600,000 will die. By the Year 2050, one in three American women, and half of American men, will be diagnosed with cancer. These statistics are sobering, but the momentum is on our side.

- FACT Since 1991, the cancer death rate has declined by 20%
- FACT Increased survival rates have added 23 million life-years
- FACT In the past 30 years, the five-year survival rate for all childhood cancers has increased from 58% to 83%
- **FACT** California companies alone are working on **366 cancer therapies**—with an estimated average expense of bringing a new drug to market being \$2.6 billion

Unfortunately, restrictive health insurance company policies are undermining these gains by:

The Washington Post

Using adverse tiering to restrict access to care. These discriminatory practices and bureaucratic hurdles can triple a patient's medicine costs.

Health insurers may be finding new ways to discriminate against patients By JASON MILLMAN

...patient groups say they've sported an alarming trend of some health insurance plans designing drug benefits to purposefully keep out sicker, costiler patients. It's currently the subject of a federal complaint, and a new study offers evidence this is happening across the country.



Dissuading the sickest patients from choosing their plans to boost their bottom lines.

Using Drugs to Discriminate—Adverse Selection in the Insurance Marketplace By Douglas Jacobs, Sc.B., & Benjamin Sommers, M.D., Ph.D.

"...many insurers may be using benefit design to dissuade sicker people from choosing their plans."



Shifting the cost burden onto patients while claiming medications cost too much. But medicine pricing has never been the problem.



California Life Sciences Association

Don't abandon the Moonshot to cure cancer. Protect biomedical research and innovation in California.