

PPMD Advocacy Day

Congressional Meeting Talking Points

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Intros

- Introduce your team to the Members/staffers.
- Take a few moments to tell your story about your experience with Duchenne and why the asks are so important to you.
- Be sure to thank the Member/staffer for their time.

Duchenne/Becker Overview

- Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a fatal genetic disorder characterized by the progressive loss of muscle. It is a multi-systemic condition, affecting many parts of the body, which results in deterioration of the skeletal, cardiac (heart), and pulmonary (lung) muscles.
- Duchenne affects approximately 1 out of every 5,000 live male births. About 20,000 children are diagnosed with Duchenne globally each year.
- Becker, a milder form of the disease, affects less patients but still leads to deterioration of the skeletal and cardiac (heart) muscle and is also fatal.

Summary of Asks:

Ask #1 **Sign the FY23 Appropriations Request for Duchenne**

Ask #2 **Cosponsor the BENEFIT Act**

Ask #1

Sign the FY23 Appropriations Request for Duchenne

- Thanks in large part to the leadership of Congress starting with the passage of the MD CARE Act in 2001 and continuing through two updates of the law, significant progress has been made over the past 20 years in the fight to end Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
- The annual appropriations process is key to advancing research for therapies and better care. Federal investment in Duchenne has resulted in much progress, including 35+ trials and 5 approved therapies, but these therapies only slow progression and we must continue to drive research and care programs at the federal level.
- **This year, we are asking for:**
 - **Department of Defense (DOD) – \$12 million** for Duchenne research
 - **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – \$8 million** for muscular dystrophy programs. And with its funding, CDC should:
 - **Update the Care Considerations** and include:
 - Recommendation related best clinical practices for **cardiac care**
 - Caring for the **mental health** of patients and families
 - Recommendations related to **FDA approved therapies**
 - **Provide a report on the Muscular Dystrophy Program funding** and include update on evaluation of the impact of the Care Considerations
 - Explore partnership with patient groups on **extracting electronic medical records** to aid in our understanding of disease progression and care
 - **National Institutes of Health (NIH) should focus research on:**
 - Challenges related to gene therapies.
 - More sensitive outcome measures and biomarkers for Duchenne and Becker.
 - Establish a research network to follow Duchenne and Becker throughout the lifespan to fully clinically characterize cardiac muscle function.
 - **FDA should:**
 - Encourage enabling the development of therapies, for patients with less common mutations that are not big enough to incentivize drug developers.
 - Encourage use of accelerated approval pathway to provide timely access to treatments that may materially improve how patients feel, function and survive.

- **To sign on to support FY23 Duchenne appropriations, please contact:**

- Senate: Sen. ROGER WICKER (R-MS) or Sen. DEBBIE STABENOW (D-MI)

- House: Rep. DORIS MATSUI (D-CA) or Rep. TROY BALDERSON (R-OH)

Ask #2

Cosponsor the BENEFIT Act

- The FDA has made progress in recent years on incorporating the patient voice into the drug development process, in large part due to Congress' leadership on Prescription Drug User Fee Authorization (PDUFA) reauthorizations and the 21st Century Cures Act.
 - Since the 2012 PDUFA passed, FDA has worked on how to capture patient experience and preference data. The agency has developed guidances to inform how communities, like the Duchenne community, can develop tools to collect data that presents the patient perspective.
 - Since 21st Century Cures passed in 2016, FDA has included information about whether or not they have received that data.
- However, while FDA now receives this data, **there is no requirement** in the FDA law that patient experience data be used in the drug development process. **The BENEFIT Act would update the FDA law to make sure patient experience data is included as a part of the benefit-risk framework of a new drug approval.**
- The Duchenne community knows how important information from patients and caregivers is to clinical research and that this information must inform FDA decisions. For example, patients and caregivers may prioritize benefits and risks of a drug differently than a clinical researcher or regulator. This information should be weighed by FDA and they should make public how it was factored into their decision.
- Now that we and FDA have more experience with patient experience data, **now is the time to take the next step and put that information to work!**

• **To sign on to support the BENEFIT Act, please contact:**

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| • <u>Senate</u> : S. 373 led by Sen. ROGER WICKER (R-MS) or Sen. AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN) | • <u>House</u> : H.R. 4472 led by Rep. DORIS MATSUI (D-CA) or Rep. BRAD WENSTRUP (R-OH) |
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- Thank you again. Please don't hesitate to contact PPMD with any questions.