



MELANOMA ADVOCATES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY HEAD TO THE HILL

The Melanoma Research Foundation's (MRF) Advocacy Days is the largest melanoma advocacy event of the year. This event unites melanoma advocates on Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress to urge them to make melanoma a national priority. This year's MRF Advocacy Days took place March 1-5, 2021 and was held completely virtual.

Over 100 advocates from across the country participated in multiple events offered throughout the week. To start off the week, the MRF hosted a half-day virtual briefing that consisted of an overview of the policy issues, how to conduct a successful virtual meeting and a roundtable comprised of state legislators on the importance of sharing your story. Advocates had access to State Caucus breakout rooms to connect with other advocates from their state and delegate roles for their meetings that week.

The Congressional meetings took place throughout the entire week and allowed advocates to meet with members of Congress and their legislative staffs. Over 50 advocates attended 68 meetings and represented 22 states. During the week, the MRF hosted events in the afternoon/evening to help them connect with other advocates outside of their meetings. The MRF hosted an Advocate Open Mic Night to give everyone the chance to share their personal stories. The MRF also hosted a Congressional Town Hall with Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12) who discussed navigating the post-election policy landscape.

Although the MRF works on many issues on the federal, regulatory and state level, the policy issues prioritized during these meetings included increasing funding for the Department of Defense Melanoma Research Program, the NIH/NCI and CDC's Skin Cancer Prevention Activities, as well as finalizing the FDA's proposed rule on banning tanning devices for America's youth. The specific asks discussed during the Congressional meetings were:

- Fiscal 2022 Defense-funded Melanoma Research
 - Support \$40 million for Defense-funded melanoma research in the Fiscal 2022 Department of Defense Appropriations bill
 - Ask your Representative to sign onto Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney's letter to the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in support of \$40 million for Defense-funded melanoma research
 - Ask your Senator to contact the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, in support of \$40 million for Defense-funded melanoma research in Fiscal 2022 Defense Appropriations bill

- Fiscal 2022 Funding for National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute
 - Support \$3.2 billion overall increase for the National Institutes of Health (over Fiscal 2021 level of \$42.9 billion)
 - Support \$7.609 billion for the National Cancer Institute (NCI Professional Judgement Budget for Fiscal 2022)

- Include melanoma language under National Cancer Institute in the Committee Report accompanying the Fiscal 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill
- Support NIH's Office of Rare Diseases
- CDC's Skin Cancer Prevention Activities
 - Support \$5 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Skin Cancer Prevention Activities in the Fiscal 2022 LHHS Appropriations bill (\$4 million was in Fiscal 2021 for CDC's skin cancer prevention line)
- Request support for the Food and Drug Administration's Proposed Rule on Prohibiting Minors from Using Tanning Beds
 - Ask your Member of Congress to request that the FDA finalize the proposed rule entitled "General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Restricted Sale, Distribution, And Use of Sunlamp Products," originally published by the FDA in the Federal Register on December 22, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 79493 et seq.)
 - The FDA proposed rule prohibits minors under 18 from using tanning beds and requires adult tanning bed users to be informed about the serious health risks of indoor tanning through a risk acknowledgement citation, including notification of the risk of developing fatal melanoma and other skin cancers.

Although this year's event was virtual, our advocates' voices were heard loud and clear to advance policies impacting the over 1.3 million Americans living with melanoma.

Thank you to our sponsors for making the MRF's 2021 Virtual Advocacy Days possible!

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