



## 2021 Volunteer Letters to the Editor (LTE) Templates

**So you met with your lawmakers... Now what?! Let's promote your work within the community!**

Below you will find sample letter to the editor templates. You should choose the one that best suits you and your experience. Once you select a letter and update the highlighted sections, you should submit the letter to your hometown newspaper following the guidance you'll see on their website or within the paper itself. You will either do this through an online form or by sending an email; remember to include your name, email address, home address, and the best phone number to reach you for verification purposes if you send an email.

Please follow up with the newspaper 1-2 business days after submitting. You simply call and ask if it has been received. "Is it still under consideration? Are there changes that could be made to make it more likely to be published?"

Please reach out to your ACS CAN staff partner if you have any questions and remember to record that you took this action in the Ambassador Action Center. Thank you!

### Option 1:

#### **Cancer Research Must Continue Even Amid Pandemic**

Word count: 174

As the country continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, it's crucial lawmakers and the public remember research into other diseases beyond COVID must continue. That's why I recently took part in a virtual event where I met with [MEMBER NAMES] as a volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

During this meeting, I made it clear that the people of [STATE NAME] are counting on our lawmakers to increase funding for cancer research and prevention. With more than 600,000 Americans expected to die from cancer this year, including [insert state number] in [state name], now is not the time to take a break. We are at a point where advancements in research are saving more lives than ever and we must keep this momentum going forward. Now is not the time to turn back the clock on progress made. Now is the time to invest in lifesaving cancer research.

By increasing medical research funding at the National Institutes of Health, we can continue to make progress in the fight against cancer.

[NAME]

[HOMETOWN, STATE]



## Option 2:

### Public Health Saves Lives

Word Count 249

America's public health system is finally getting the attention it deserves; however, its importance stretches far beyond the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic. Good public health starts with prevention and that includes preventing one of America's deadliest diseases: cancer.

Each year about half of the nation's 600,000 cancer deaths could have been prevented through existing public health measures. That's why the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) cancer screening programs, which supply states and communities with resources to provide breast, colon, cervical and other cancer screenings to people in need, are so important. They can save lives and help address long-standing health disparities. For instance, although Black and White women get breast cancer at about the same rate, death rates are 40% higher for Black women, in part due to screening inequities. This leads to cancer that is more often diagnosed at later stages when treatment options are fewer and survival is less likely.

Increased cancer prevention funding can reach these people before it's too late. It's a point I made clear to [MEMBER NAME] during a virtual meeting this month. As a [cancer patient/survivor/caretaker] I understand the importance of doing everything possible to tackle this disease and it pains me to know we're not fully utilizing the tools we have and are neglecting communities in need. If we are going to come out of this pandemic stronger and healthier, we need to do whatever we can to strengthen public health, including better funding these essential CDC cancer prevention programs.

[NAME]

[HOMETOWN, STATE]

## Option 3:

### Affordable Care Act Tax Credits

Word count: 174

I recently had the honor of representing [STATE] and meeting virtually with federal lawmakers to ask that they make cancer a national priority. Along with hundreds of other volunteers across the country, I called on Congress to support lifesaving policies that help people prevent and better treat cancer.

We asked legislators for their support in ensuring that the expanded Affordable Care Act tax credits scheduled to expire at the end of 2022 are made permanent in the final budget reconciliation package. These tax credits make health insurance affordable for millions of Americans.

I had the opportunity to speak with [INSERT MEMBER NAMES, e.g. Senator Mark Warner, (D-VA)] and tell [him/her/them] that cancer isn't partisan - it touches every community. Therefore, Congress should seize the opportunity to pass critical legislation that can help save lives and end cancer as we know it.

With more than 1,600 people dying from cancer every day, we must take legislative action on these critical issues.

[NAME]

[HOMETOWN, STATE]



## Option 4:

### Congress Can Support Cancer Early Detection and Screening in Medicare

As a **cancer patient/survivor/caregiver**, I'm excited about new technology to improve cancer early detection and save lives. Several companies are developing blood tests to detect multiple cancers early. These multi-cancer early detection tests will complement, not replace, existing early detection tests.

These tests could be life-changing. But only if people can access them. That's why I recently met with **[Member of Congress Name and/or Senator]** virtually to ask [him/her/them] to support the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act.

This legislation would create a pathway for Medicare to cover this technology following FDA approval. This legislation would ensure that Medicare recipients don't face unacceptable delays in accessing these new tests once approved by the FDA. Medicare already covers early detection tests for common cancers, including breast, colorectal and prostate cancers, and people on Medicare must have access to new screening options.

Detecting cancer early could be the difference between life or death. **[Member of Congress name]** can help save lives in **[state]** by supporting this legislation. **{CHANGE TO THIS SENTENCE IF MEMBER OF CONGRESS SUPPORTS LEGISLATION: I'm grateful that [Name of Member] supports these efforts, and I urge [additional Member of Congress name] to follow their leadership and support cancer early detection and screening.**

**[NAME]**

**[HOMETOWN, STATE]**