



## Livestrong 2026 Advocacy Priorities Brief

### Purpose

This brief outlines a focused set of advocacy priorities for Livestrong. It aligns our public policy work with our mission, programs, and survivor-centered impact.

### Our Advocacy North Star

Livestrong advocates for policies that ensure people affected by cancer can access, afford, and navigate quality care related to their cancer journey and have a high quality of life during and after treatment. Our advocacy priorities are grounded in the real-world needs we see every day through Livestrong programs and the lived experiences of survivors and caregivers.

We focus our advocacy where Livestrong brings unique value: survivorship, quality of life, and systems change that improves outcomes beyond treatment alone. This includes protecting quality-of-life outcomes such as fertility, financial stability, and caregiver support as essential components of survivorship.

### Livestrong Advocacy Priority Issue Areas

Our advocacy work is organized across the following priority issue areas, which align with current legislative activity, internal tracking, and public reporting:

- Insurance & Affordability
- Access to Survivorship & Supportive Care
- Patient-Centered Innovation (including digital tools and artificial intelligence in cancer care)
- Government Funding for Cancer Survivorship
- Affordable access to fertility preservation and IVF post treatment

These issue areas are reflected across the strategic advocacy priorities below.

## **Advocacy Priority 1: Survivorship-Centered Access to Care & Insurance Protections**

### **The Challenge**

Cancer survivors and their families often face fragmented care, gaps in insurance coverage, and limited access to supportive services, particularly after active treatment ends. High out-of-pocket costs, coverage denials, lack of fertility preservation benefits, and unpaid caregiving responsibilities contribute to long-term financial and emotional strain.

### **Livestrong Supports**

Livestrong supports policies that ensure comprehensive, affordable survivorship care, including:

- Insurance coverage for fertility preservation and family-building services for people both pre and post cancer treatment, recognizing fertility as a survivorship and quality-of-life issue; not an elective service.
- Strong insurance protections that reduce coverage disruptions, prior authorization barriers, and financial toxicity for survivors and caregivers.
- Coverage for supportive and quality-of-life services, including exercise oncology, mental health care, symptom management, survivorship resource support, fertility preservation services, and long-term follow-up care.
- Paid caregiver support policies, including insurance- or state-supported programs that allow family caregivers to receive compensation for providing essential care to a loved one with cancer.

### **Caregiver Support as a Survivorship Issue**

Cancer care relies heavily on informal caregivers who provide medical, emotional, and logistical support, often at significant personal and financial cost. Livestrong supports policies that recognize caregivers as a critical part of the care team, including pathways for paid family caregiving, workforce protections, and access to supportive resources.

Supporting caregivers improves continuity of care, reduces burnout, and strengthens survivorship outcomes for the entire cancer ecosystem.

## Why This Matters to Livestrong

Livestrong's fertility program provides direct financial assistance, education, and support to people facing cancer-related infertility, often at the moment when treatment decisions must be made quickly and under stress. Through this work, Livestrong sees firsthand how lack of insurance coverage for fertility preservation forces patients to choose between timely cancer care and future family-building.

In addition, Livestrong's survivorship services consistently surface the long-term financial and emotional strain created by unpaid caregiving responsibilities. These programmatic insights inform Livestrong's advocacy for insurance protections, fertility coverage, and paid caregiver support that reflect the real needs of survivors and families.

## What Success Looks Like

Cancer survivors and their families can reliably access coordinated, affordable care that supports physical health, emotional well-being, fertility and family-building goals, and caregiving needs—without delaying treatment or incurring overwhelming financial burden.

## Advocacy Priority 2: Patient - Resource Support, Digital Innovation & AI in Cancer Care

### The Challenge

Cancer care systems are complex and difficult to navigate. Survivors and caregivers are often left without adequate guidance, coordination, or tools to manage care across providers, settings, and stages of survivorship.

### Livestrong Supports

- Policies that embed patient support and care coordination as core components of cancer care.
- Integration of patient-reported outcomes and survivor and caregiver input into care delivery and evaluation.
- Implementation and use of digital tools and artificial intelligence to improve access, continuity, communication, and personalization of care, while protecting equity, privacy, and trust.
- Payment and delivery models that reward value, coordination, and patient-centered outcomes, rather than volume.

## Why This Matters to Livestrong

Livestrong's programs and digital survivorship tools, such as [Ellis](#) demonstrate measurably how survivor- and caregiver-centered innovation reduces unmet needs, improves communication, and strengthens long-term outcomes.

## What Success Looks Like

Survivors and caregivers experience clearer pathways through care, better communication, fewer unmet needs, and greater confidence in managing life with and after cancer.

## Advocacy Priority 3: Sustainable Public Investment in Cancer Care

### The Challenge

Public funding for survivorship, fertility-related care, and caregiver support has not kept pace with rising costs, or the growing survivor population.

### Livestrong Supports

- Sustained federal funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and related cancer and survivorship programs.
- Continued state-level investment in cancer treatment research and recurrence prevention, including full support for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT).
- Public funding that advances survivorship research, fertility preservation access, caregiver support models, and community-based cancer care.

## Why This Matters to Livestrong

Public investment enables innovation, equitable access, and long-term survivorship solutions that extend beyond direct services.

## **What Success Looks Like**

Stable, forward-looking public funding that supports innovation, equity, and improved survivorship outcomes nationwide.

## **Focus & Scope**

Livestrong's primary advocacy focus is U.S. federal and state policy, where we can most directly influence survivorship, fertility, and caregiver outcomes. We engage in national and global cancer efforts through strategic partnerships and shared learning, while prioritizing domestic policy impact.

## **How Livestrong Advocates Take Action**

Livestrong advocates advance these priorities by:

- Tracking and supporting priority legislation aligned with survivorship, fertility, insurance, and caregiver support
- Meeting with policymakers to share lived experience and program-informed insights
- Elevating survivor and caregiver voices through storytelling and public engagement
- Supporting funding and policy initiatives that improve quality of life for people affected by cancer
- Amplifying advocacy wins through communications and marketing channels