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## **KEEPING THE PROMISE: CANCER CARE FOR THE WHOLE PATIENT**

*Cancer Support Community Launches Cancer Policy Institute*

**WASHINGTON - (June 19, 2013)** - The Cancer Support Community (CSC), an international nonprofit organization, will celebrate the promise of cancer care for the whole patient with the launch today of the *Cancer Policy Institute* at the Cancer Support Community. This inaugural event, held at the Newseum, will feature a keynote address by Ezekiel Emanuel, MD., Ph.D., recognition of Congress members who have made a significant impact on cancer issues, and the voice of patients and families currently engaged in the cancer journey.

The *Cancer Policy Institute* at the Cancer Support Community was formed to advance the idea that all people impacted by cancer should be empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. The Institute is partnering with a number of cancer advocacy organizations, think-tanks and other public policy influencers to promote comprehensive, quality cancer care that includes medical as well as social and emotional care.

“As the ever-changing cancer landscape is becoming more complex, it is important to ensure that the voices of patients and their families are heard by Congress, regulatory agencies and state and local governments,” said Kim Thiboldeaux, President and CEO of the Cancer Support Community. “We are excited to work with our advisors and advocates to ensure that no one faces cancer alone.”

A leader in the patient-centered movement in cancer care, the Cancer Support Community, formed by the union of The Wellness Community and Gilda’s Club Worldwide, reaches more than one million people impacted by cancer each year with social and emotional support, wellness and educational programs, all delivered at no charge face-to-face, online and over the phone. These direct patient services, coupled with the only *Research and Training Institute* dedicated to understanding the full cancer patient experience, position CSC to lead the charge of integrating social and emotional care into the full spectrum of the cancer care continuum.

“Re-engineering care delivery for costly chronic diseases like cancer is the key challenge in health care today. We cannot meaningfully bring down costs and improve quality in cancer care without focusing in on the patient experience - making it more seamless, more convenient and less stressful. It’s great to see the Cancer Support Community making such great strides in this area,” said Emanuel.

The *Cancer Policy Institute* is pleased to honor the following members of Congress for their contributions at today's event:

- **Sen. Robert J. Casey Jr. (D-PA)** will be awarded the Public Policy Award for Access for his work to protect access to health care, particularly for children and the elderly, and for his leadership of a bipartisan effort supporting investment in the National Institutes of Health.
- **Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ)** will be honored with the Public Policy Award for Research for his commitment to health care issues notably his work with the Recalcitrant Cancer Act late last year.
- **Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)**, a breast cancer survivor, will be awarded the Public Policy Award for Leadership in recognition of her work with the Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young (EARLY) Act, a directive to create a national education campaign about breast cancer for young adults and high-risk groups.

The *Institute's* staff and advisors consists of former Congressional staff, oncology health care professionals, cancer survivors and caregivers, experts in policy, law and reimbursement, as well as leaders that have worked with diverse populations in the broader cancer and health care communities.

To learn more about the *Cancer Policy Institute* at the Cancer Support Community, please visit: [www.cancersupportcommunity.org/cancerpolicyinstitute](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org/cancerpolicyinstitute).

### **About the Cancer Support Community**

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of over 50 licensed affiliates, more than 100 satellite locations and a vibrant online community, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer and to their loved ones. As the largest, professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. In 2012, CSC delivered more than \$40 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. So that no one faces cancer alone.® For more information, please visit [www.cancersupportcommunity.org](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org).

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