

**Peter Morley, Patient Advocate
New York, NY**



Peter Morley is a disabled patient advocate, a two-time cancer survivor and a healthcare activist who lives with chronic illness. He has worked closely with elected officials including his Congresswoman from NY-12, Carolyn Maloney and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; members of the Senate HELP Committee, including Senators Patty Murray, Doug, Jones, Jacky Rosen, Chris Murphy; leaders of the House of Representatives including, Speaker Pelosi, Congressman Swalwell, Congressman Cummings, Congressman Kennedy and a multitude of others. As of December 2019, he has held over 350 meetings in Congress sharing his own journey and the health care stories of people across the United States. He has testified twice before Congress in the House for the Oversight Committee and the Appropriations Committee Labor-HHS-Education subcommittee

In December 2016, he joined Twitter and created the handle @morethanmySLE* with the goal of fostering awareness of men who have Lupus. His Twitter account gave him visibility that led to his working with US Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney to advocate for healthcare that is accessible and affordable to people with Lupus and other chronic illnesses.

Since May 2017, he has increased his voice and scope of advocacy. He states that no one should ever have to worry about having their healthcare taken away from them simply because they became ill. "This is what energizes and inspires me to travel to Washington, DC,". "To fight for each of us with Lupus and others with chronic illnesses and ensure that we all have the health coverage we need and deserve." Before the Affordable Care Act (ACA) guaranteed health insurance coverage to those with preexisting conditions, many people with Lupus could be denied health insurance policies by many providers.

He is passionate about protecting those with pre-existing conditions, encouraging, and teaching others to advocate for themselves at the local, state, or federal levels. Since July 2017, Peter has traveled to Washington, DC 27 times to advocate.

*SLE, the most common type of Lupus is called Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), which affects many parts of the body. While anyone can get Lupus, the disease most often affects women. In fact, women make up about nine out of ten adults with the disease. It's also more common in women of African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent than in Caucasian women. Peter Morley is one of the 10% of men that lives with Lupus in the United States and although he structures his life around its debilitating symptoms, chronic fatigue, daily medications, and monthly biologic treatments, he refuses to let Lupus define him. He is "more than his SLE".