

CONGRESSMAN BRENDAN F. BOYLE
CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
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10:30 AM

This morning, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce will discuss a topic that is very personal to so many of us, including former Congressman Rick Nolan and his daughter, Katherine – the battle against lung cancer.

I'd first like to lay out some facts about lung cancer:

As you may know, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths nationwide, claiming more than 150,000 lives each year.

The vast majority of those diagnosed have never smoked or have quit smoking for over a decade prior to being diagnosed. In fact, up to 30,000 Americans who have never smoked get lung cancer every year.

Although lung cancer often has no symptoms until it has progressed, research indicates it responds well to treatment options if detected early. For example, for patients who have early-stage lung cancer, the cure rate can be as high as 80% or 90%.

Numerous studies show that young women are particularly impacted with little understanding as to why, making investments in research that much more needed.

Currently, lung cancer's five-year survival rate is below 20 percent and stands as the least funded in terms of research dollars per death of all major cancers.

However, it is a promising time for the lung cancer community. We have computed tomography (CT) screening for early detection now approved and covered for those at risk, and a concurrent surge in research and new treatment breakthroughs.

For the first time ever, the most lethal cancer is becoming more treatable, curable, and even preventable disease.

And while significant progress is being made, lung cancer remains a serious adversary.

That is why we need to continue focusing on improvements to prevention, detection, and treatment of lung cancer.

One great place to start is to pass the Katherine's Law for Lung Cancer Early Detection and Survival Act, legislation named after Katherine, who lost her life to lung cancer, so we can save the lives of those battling this devastating disease.

My bill creates a study to examine incidences of lung cancer among individuals at increased risk for lung cancer due to occupation, individuals with a family history of lung cancer, women, and other individuals with such other risks for lung cancer.

This legislation works to provide solutions to care, eliminate the stigma of the disease, reduce its mortality, improve survivorship, further research, and ensure equitable access to preventive screenings, treatments, diagnostics, and testing.

This will move the ball forward on ultimately finding a cure for lung cancer and honor the legacy of those who fought hard to expand early screenings for lung cancer to save more lives.

We do not have time to waste. I urge the support of the Katherine's Law for Lung Cancer Early Detection and Survival Act.

I'd also like to thank Chairman Pallone and Subcommittee Chairwoman Eshoo for considering this life-saving legislation at today's hearing.

Thank you.