



ASTRO is the **leading society** for radiation oncologists in the U.S.

We have more than 10,000 members, including doctors in **every state**.

Our doctors **treat >1 million people** with cancer each year.

Radiation therapy is a **safe, effective choice** for the most common cancers.

2 in 5 Americans will develop cancer. **More than half** will be prescribed radiation therapy.

Radiation Oncology Fast Facts



#ASTROAdvocacy

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Our patients can't afford Medicare's cuts



of radiation
oncologists
report
practices
facing key
staff
shortages

**Cuts reduce staff
& patient
services**

- Nurses, navigators, transportation, nutrition, care programs, classes, and more

**Cuts undermine
quality**

- Treatment delays and fewer appointments
- Increased patient anxiety
- Fewer technology upgrades that improve patient outcomes

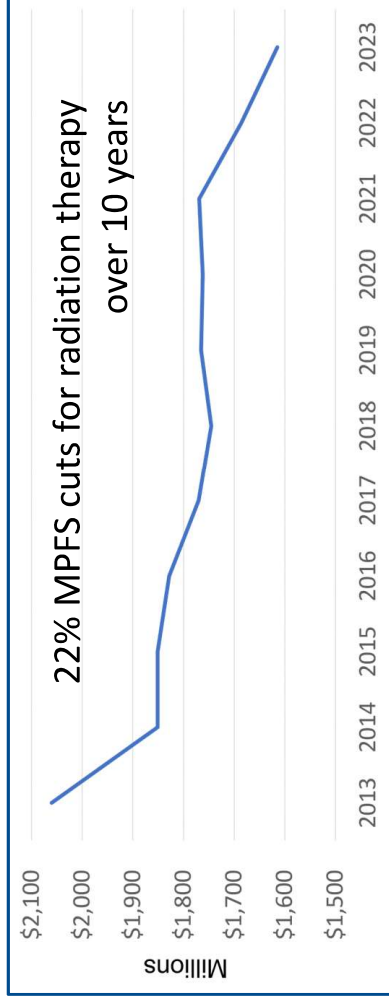
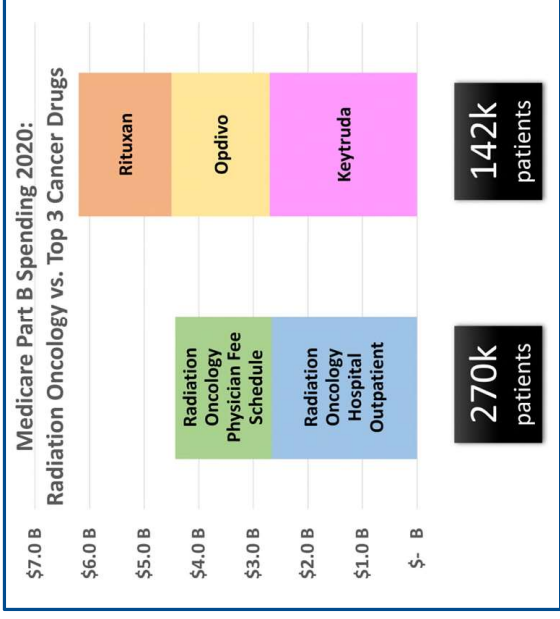
**Cuts threaten
access**

- Some practices – especially rural clinics – forced to close or consolidate
- When asked about their top barriers to RT care, patients cited distance + work & family responsibilities

Stop the Medicare Cuts!

- RO is a high value, trusted, and effective cancer treatment
- ASTRO asks you to support:
 - #NoNewCuts
 - Radiation Oncology Medicare payment program reform

Reimbursement cuts in the last five years for the cancers treated most often by ROs:



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Prior Authorization causes cancer patients unnecessary and life-threatening delays



Average Delay in Radiation Therapy Due to Prior Authorization

Ask 1 – Sign the Dear Colleague urging CMS follow through on key prior auth reforms

In the **House**, lead authors are:
Suzan DelBene & Mike Kelly

In the **Senate**, lead authors are:
John Thune & Sherrod Brown



Federal investment in cancer research saves lives.

- 33% drop in cancer mortality since 1991
- 3.8 million cancer deaths averted

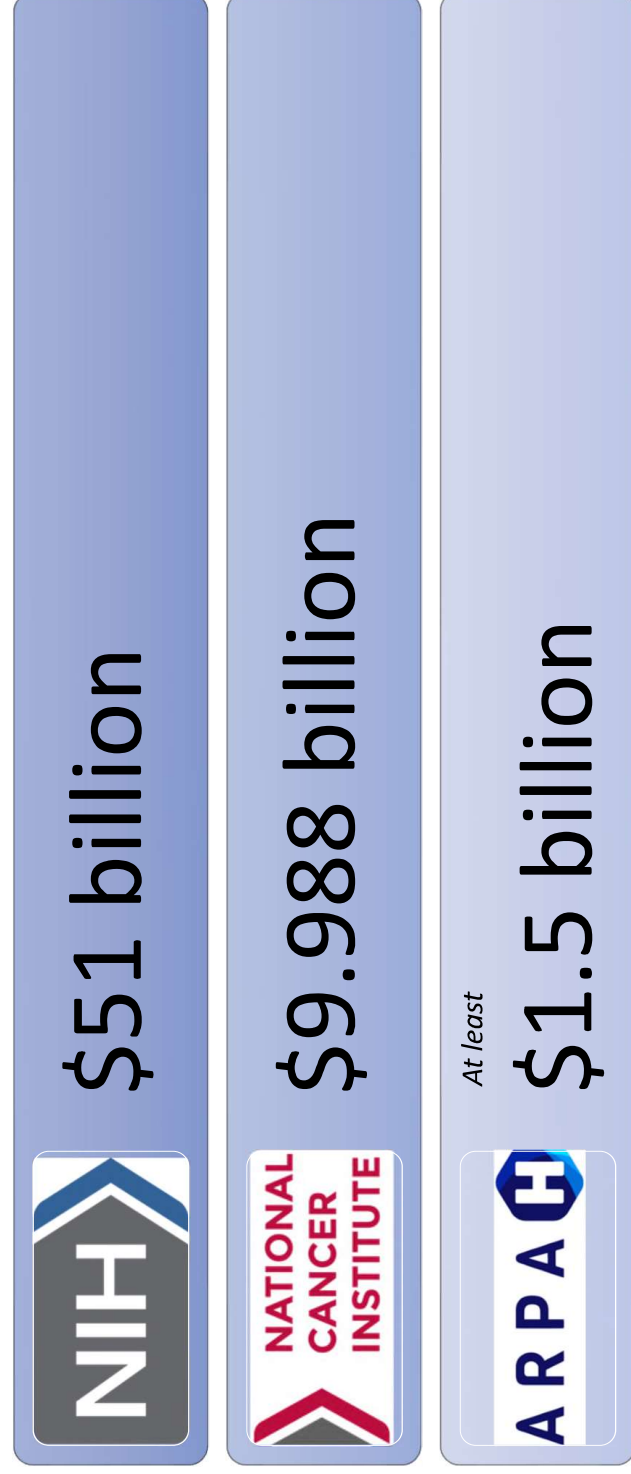


Radiation oncology research leads to longer survival & better quality of life for patients.

Recent examples:

- Radiopharmaceuticals
- FLASH radiotherapy
- AI-enabled precision therapy
- Image-guided radiation

Ask 2 – Increased cancer research funding



Radiation Oncology physicians and patients need your public support!

House & Senate

June is National Cancer Survivor Month.

*Will your office partner with **ASTRO** and the **National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship** to show your support?*

- Highlight a radiation oncology clinic in their state on **social media**
- One-minute **floor speech** highlighting the role of RT in cancer care



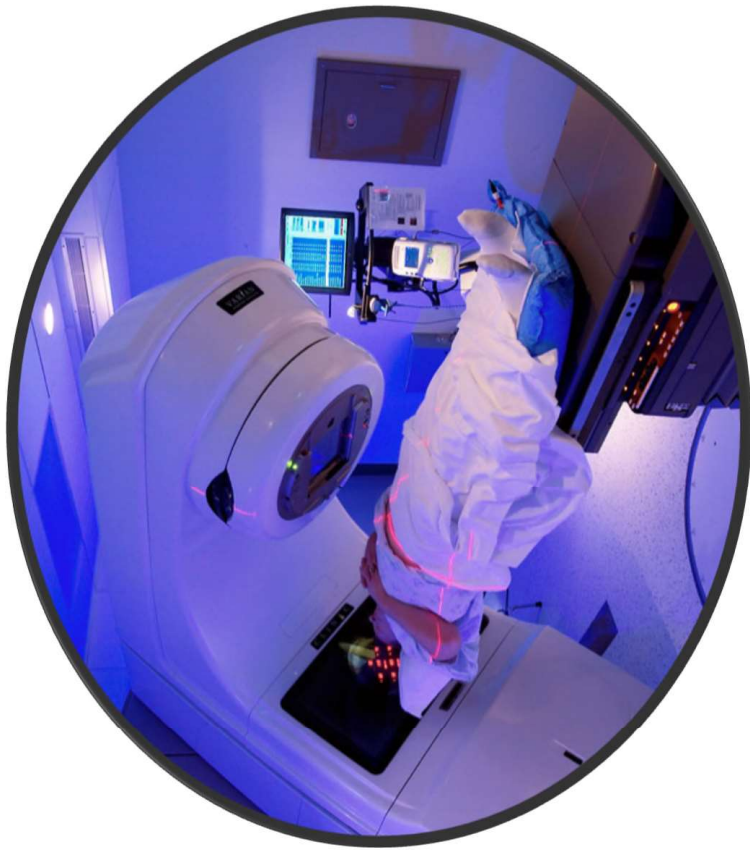
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Ask 3 – Statement on the Floor

House of Representatives



Ask 3 – Highlight a radiation oncology clinic in June: *National Cancer Survivor Month*

Senate



Senator's Name Here

@SenatorHandle

On behalf of every #RadOnc in **your state**,
@ASTRO_org invites you to highlight one of
our centers and our patients during **National
Cancer Survivor Month**. #ASTROadvocacy
#CancerAdvocacy #CancerSurvivorship



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