

Roll Call



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The Cancer Caucus

The personal stories shaping the new fight for the cure



PATRICIA MURPHY

Violence At Trump Events: 'We All Saw This Coming'

We all saw this coming. Any reporter who has covered Donald Trump rallies since the summer has known for some time that violence on an important scale was inevitable.

The topic has come up often in conversations with other journalists. "Something really bad's going happen," a reporter said to me at an event for Marco Rubio in Georgia recently. I agreed, but assumed the initial violence would be against the media.

A recurring bit at Trump rallies begins with Trump pointing to the press section and unleashing a tirade. "Reporters, they're the most dishonest people," he says, often singling out a female reporter by name. "The media—they never show my crowds! They don't want the world to see my crowds!"

At a rally in Grand Rapids, Mich., Trump said he wouldn't kill reporters, but did have to think about it. "I hate some of these people, I hate 'em," Trump said. "I would never kill them. I would never do that." Then he waited a beat. "Uh, let's see, uh? No, I would never do that." The crowd loved it.

With that kind of invective coming from the podium, I wasn't at all surprised when a photographer from TIME was grabbed by the throat and thrown to the ground by a security guard at a Trump event in Virginia.

Or when, days before that, NBC's Katy Tur, who covers the Trump campaign exclusively, tweeted about threats coming from a crowd where she was working. "Trump trashes press. Crowd jeers. Guy by press 'pen' looks at us & screams, 'You're a bitch!'"

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From left: House members Fleischmann, Wasserman Schultz, McCarthy, Payne and Long share their experiences with cancer.

CQ Roll Call Photo Illustration

By Lindsey McPherson

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s loss of his son Beau drives him as he leads the national "moonshot" effort to cure cancer, but he's far from the only policymaker whose experience with the disease motivates him.

Here are the stories of Democrats and Republicans, men and women, whose personal battles have led to bipartisan support for increasing National Institutes of Health funding and accelerating research to find cures for cancer and other fatal diseases.

"When you have cancer, everything else falls into the background and your sole goal is just to beat the cancer."

— Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Recognizing Genetic Risks

Debbie Wasserman Schultz's diagnosis alerted her to testing that too few women know about

The only people Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz told about her cancer diagnosis at first were close family members, her roommates and the need-to-know staff who helped manage her schedule as she was going through treatment.

"When you have cancer, everything else falls into the background and your sole goal is just to beat the cancer," the Florida Democrat said. "It's a very isolating thing to go through, so you want to make sure you have some control in your life

because you really feel like you've lost control over everything that's happening to you."

But she knew she wouldn't stay quiet forever. She wanted more women to know what she found out with her diagnosis at age 41: She carried a genetic mutation that gave her an 85 percent chance of developing breast cancer.

"It was eye opening and sobering enough to be hit with the anvil of a cancer diagnosis, but on top of that to learn that I have been ticking time bomb my entire life because I carry this mutation—that was really a double whammy."

Wasserman Schultz learned she had breast cancer in late 2007 after finding a lump in her breast during a self exam. Following her diagnosis, she said she "just didn't absorb that a young woman at my stage of life could get breast cancer." But then she learned she carried a mutation of the breast cancer 2 gene, BRCA2, that is common in Ashkenazi Jews.

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