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Working It Out: Your Employment Rights As a Cancer Survivor

Employment challenges and cancer survivors



How to avoid job discrimination



How employment discrimination laws
protect cancer survivors



Know your legal rights



Talk it out before you sue

A publication of the



Written by Barbara Hoffman, J.D., General Counsel, NCCS

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What Cancer Survivors Need to Know About Health Insurance

Types of health insurance



The basics of Medicare



Insurance options for cancer survivors



What to do if your claim is denied





NATIONAL COALITION FOR CANCER SURVIVORSHIP RIBBON OF HOPE™

"The significance of the ribbon is compelling. . . as it travels throughout the country, . . . it will call attention to the survivorship movement in a highly visible, hope-filled way."

— ELIZABETH JOHNS CLARK, NCCS PRESIDENT

"The National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship Ribbon of Hope will stand as a lasting legacy of hope to cancer survivors."

— ELLEN STOVALL, NCCS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hope is an important cornerstone of the cancer survivorship movement. The National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS) through its information services, community organizing, public awareness, and public policy participation has worked for over ten years to promote quality of life and to increase the reason to hope among people diagnosed with cancer and among their loved ones and caregivers.

The Ribbon of Hope™, a traveling "work-in-progress," is part of NCCS' *Celebration of Survivorship Through the Arts Project* whereby NCCS works with artists to produce events which inspire, build community, and raise awareness for cancer survivorship. The Ribbon was created for NCCS by John Feight, Director of the Foundation for Hospital Art in Atlanta. NCCS first introduced this symbol of the cancer survivorship movement's hope and life force at the First National Congress on Cancer Survivorship in Washington DC in 1995. Congress attendees including Harold Freeman, MD, Chair of the President's Cancer Panel and director of surgery at Harlem Hospital and Richard Klausner, MD, director of the National Cancer Institute were among the first to sign the Ribbon of Hope's rays. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton boosted the project with the signing at the White House where she remembered her mother-in-law who had died of cancer.

When assembled The Ribbon of Hope™ is composed of different lengths of gold ribbon arranged into a radiant sun. Cancer Survivors and their supporters have signed the Ribbon's rays as an affirmation of the Ribbon's message of hope and the growing community of individuals concerned with cancer issues. Component ribbons tour the nation for signing at special events related to cancer survivorship. Some ribbons have already traveled abroad, and have been signed by cancer survivors in Japan, Bosnia, Ireland, France, and Germany.

Plans are being made for smaller, wall-sized sunburst kits—Ribbons of Hope™—which will be available to interested organizations and institutions for participatory events and display. For more information, please contact the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, 1010 Wayne Avenue, 5th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; Phone. 301-650-8868.



Stretching a Ribbon of Hope Across America

by Anita Baumann

"There is no such thing as false hope."

"I hope everything turns out fine."

"Well, we can always hope."

"Hope does not equate with denial. True hope is based in reality."

As reflected in these statements overheard in conversations, general sessions, and proudly displayed on buttons, hope was in the air at the First National Congress on Cancer Survivorship. Hope is a cornerstone of cancer survivorship, and it is an attitude that NCCS fosters among our members and those we serve.

NCCS unveiled a vivid symbol of that important concept at the survivorship Congress: The Ribbon of Hope. The display—which is actually an arrangement of ribbons shaped like a radiant sun—symbolizes hope and new life. Cancer survivors and their supporters will affirm that message by signing the sunburst as it tours the nation.

That process got off to a strong start at the NCCS Congress as participants lined up to sign throughout the event. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton boosted the project with a signing at the White House attended by a delegation from NCCS. In so doing, Mrs. Clinton became the first person outside the NCCS Congress to sign the Ribbon of Hope.

The NCCS delegation included coalition President Betsy Clark, PhD; Deputy Executive Director Susan L. Scherr; Catherine Logan, executive director of People Living Through Cancer and an NCCS co-founder; Mary P. Lovato, director of A Gathering of Cancer Support; and Jack Sheahan, director of the Greater Washington Coalition for Cancer Survivorship.

During their 10-minute meeting with her, the delegation told Mrs. Clinton about the NCCS Congress and the coalition's work in the survivorship movement.

"Mrs. Clinton was very gracious," said Clark after the meeting. "She told us



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton met with NCCS delegation at the White House to sign the Ribbon of Hope. Here she inspects NCCS poster, "To Care." With her (l-r): NCCS President Betsy Clark, Deputy Director Susan Scherr and GWCCS President Jack Sheahan.

that the work we do is worthwhile and that she was personally glad that our group was there to help survivors. She mentioned that her mother-in-law had died of breast cancer and that she understood the need for groups like ours."

The "sunbeam" signed by the First Lady was later signed by Harold Freeman, MD, Chair of the President's Cancer Panel and director of surgery at Harlem Hospital; Richard Klausner, MD, director of the National Cancer Institute; the NCCS Board of Directors; and numerous Congress participants.

The Ribbon of Hope is the brainchild of artist John Feight, director of the Foundation for Hospital Art in Atlanta. Feight, who conducted last year's "Paint-In" at the ninth annual Assembly, created the display onsite at the Congress.

Throughout 1996, Feight will take the ribbon to hospitals around the nation, gathering cancer survivors' signatures at paint-ins and other special

events. In October, he will present it at NCCS' 10th anniversary celebration in Albuquerque, NM.

NCCS hopes to have the ribbon signed by people in every state, with the Congress ribbon representing the District of Columbia. A group in Canada has also expressed an interest in signing the ribbon.

After the Albuquerque meeting, the Ribbon of Hope will go on permanent display at a site to be determined.

"It will stand as a lasting legacy of hope to cancer survivors," says NCCS Executive Director Ellen Stovall. "It signifies that, even after the shock of a cancer diagnosis, a new rich life may be possible."

"The significance of the ribbon is compelling," says Clark. "The ribbon, as it travels throughout the country, and once it is fully formed, will call national attention to the survivorship movement in a highly visible, hope-filled way."

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