

# Policy Updates Impacting Cancer Care

HSCO 2024 Annual Conference

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Presented by Meagan O'Neill, MS

Executive Director

*Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC)*



# Disclosures

- I have no financial disclosures to report.

# Today's Agenda

- Brief Introduction
- Big-Picture Trends
- Policy Updates and ACCC Priorities
- Final Takeaways

# Brief Introduction

# Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC) Overview

*The Leading Education & Advocacy Organization for the Cancer Care Community*

- **50-YEAR HISTORY:** Serving the cancer care community since 1974 by bringing oncology professionals from different disciplines together to **advance cancer care** nationwide<sup>1</sup>.
- **NATIONWIDE SCALE:** Among the largest and most diverse networks of cancer care providers, ACCC's membership:
  - Spans over **1,700 provider organizations**, ranging from community hospitals and independent physician practices to major academic institutions and NCI-designated cancer centers.
  - Treats approximately **75% of all cancer patients** in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
  - Supports **45,000 individual members**, including both clinical and non-clinical roles within the **multidisciplinary cancer care team** (e.g., clinicians, researchers, nurses, pharmacists, administrators, and supportive care staff).
- **“HOW-TO” ORGANIZATION:** Our work is focused on translating clinical science into **practical solutions** and accelerating the **latest innovations** in oncology care into real-world offerings for patients, regardless of where they live or seek care.

<sup>1</sup> Source: “The State of Oncology Practice in America, 2018: Results of the ASCO Practice Census Survey, Journal of Oncology Practice (JOP). <https://ascopubs.org/doi/10.1200/JOP.18.00149>.

# Speaker Background

**Meagan O'Neill, MS**  
Executive Director, ACCC



- Academic background is a blend of **business, public health, and health policy**
- **Joined ACCC in July 2024** with over **15 years of experience** in oncology-focused management consulting and strategic advising for hospitals and health systems nationwide.
- **Former co-leader of the Oncology Services Practice at ECG Management Consultants**, the largest dedicated oncology consultancy in the U.S.
- **Consulted for over 100 cancer centers** of various types, sizes, and markets.
- Recognized **thought leader** in oncology, with deep expertise in **operational improvement, performance transformation, and strategic growth** within cancer care.
- **Former corporate member of ACCC**, offering a unique perspective and deep familiarity with the organization's mission and impact.
- **Personal experience as a caregiver** for a parent battling cancer, a life-changing experience that led me to where I am today.

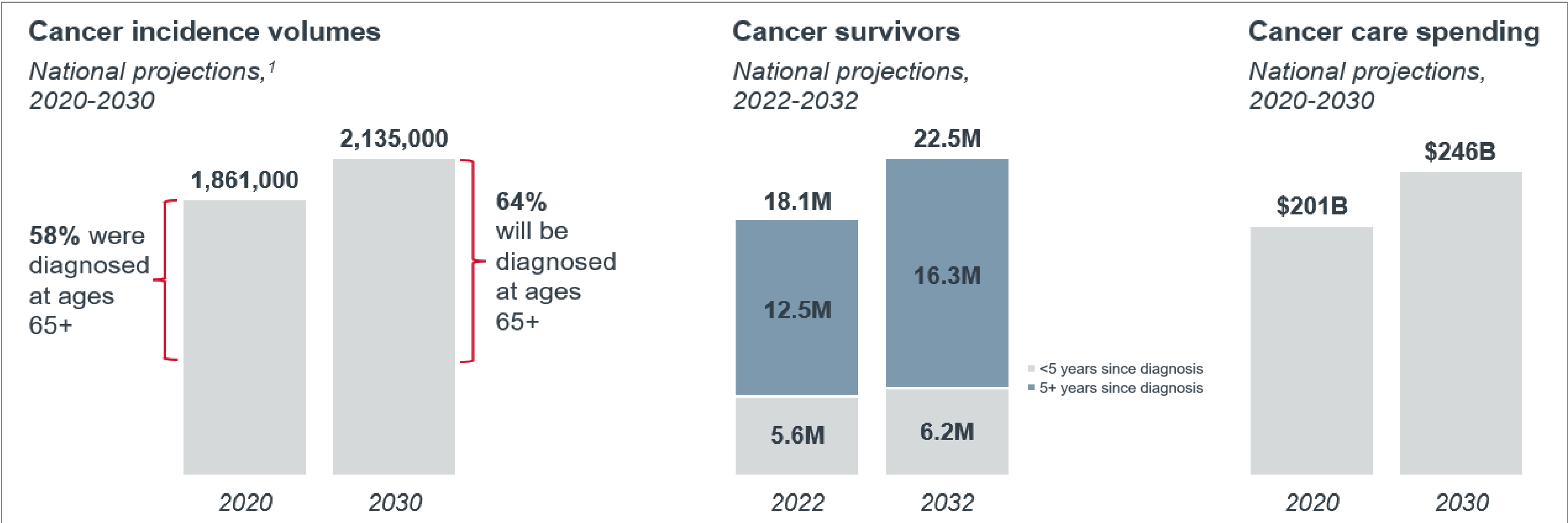
# Big-Picture Trends



# State of Cancer Care: Incidence, Survivors, Spending All on Rise

By 2040, US oncology programs will need to meet the demand of an additional 11 million cancer patients seeking care due to the “Silver Tsunami.” At the same time, oncology costs continue to rise.

National Cancer Projections: 10-Year Forecast for Time Period 2020-2030 (approximately)



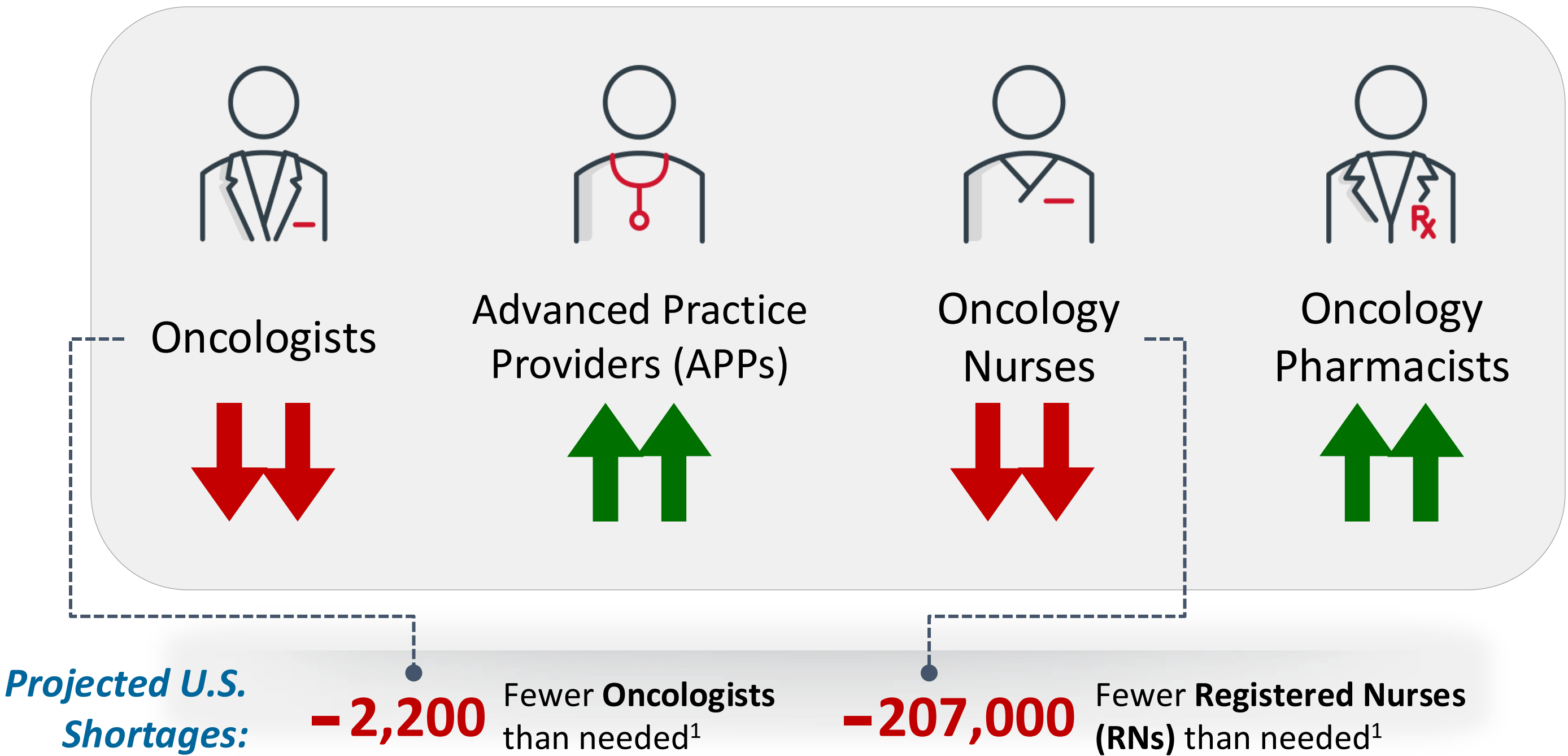
Source: Advisory Board, Oncology Market Trends 2024 Report. Based on U.S. data.



# Workforce Shortages, But Not For All Roles

## Oncology Workforce Outlook: Supply Forecast by 2025

*Note: Select care team roles shown for illustrative purposes.*



Source: Advisory Board, Oncology Market Trends 2024 Report.

<sup>1</sup> Physician projection is based on Med/Onc and Hem/Onc specialties only. RN projection is not specific to oncology.

## Clinical Care Delivery: Team-Based Model

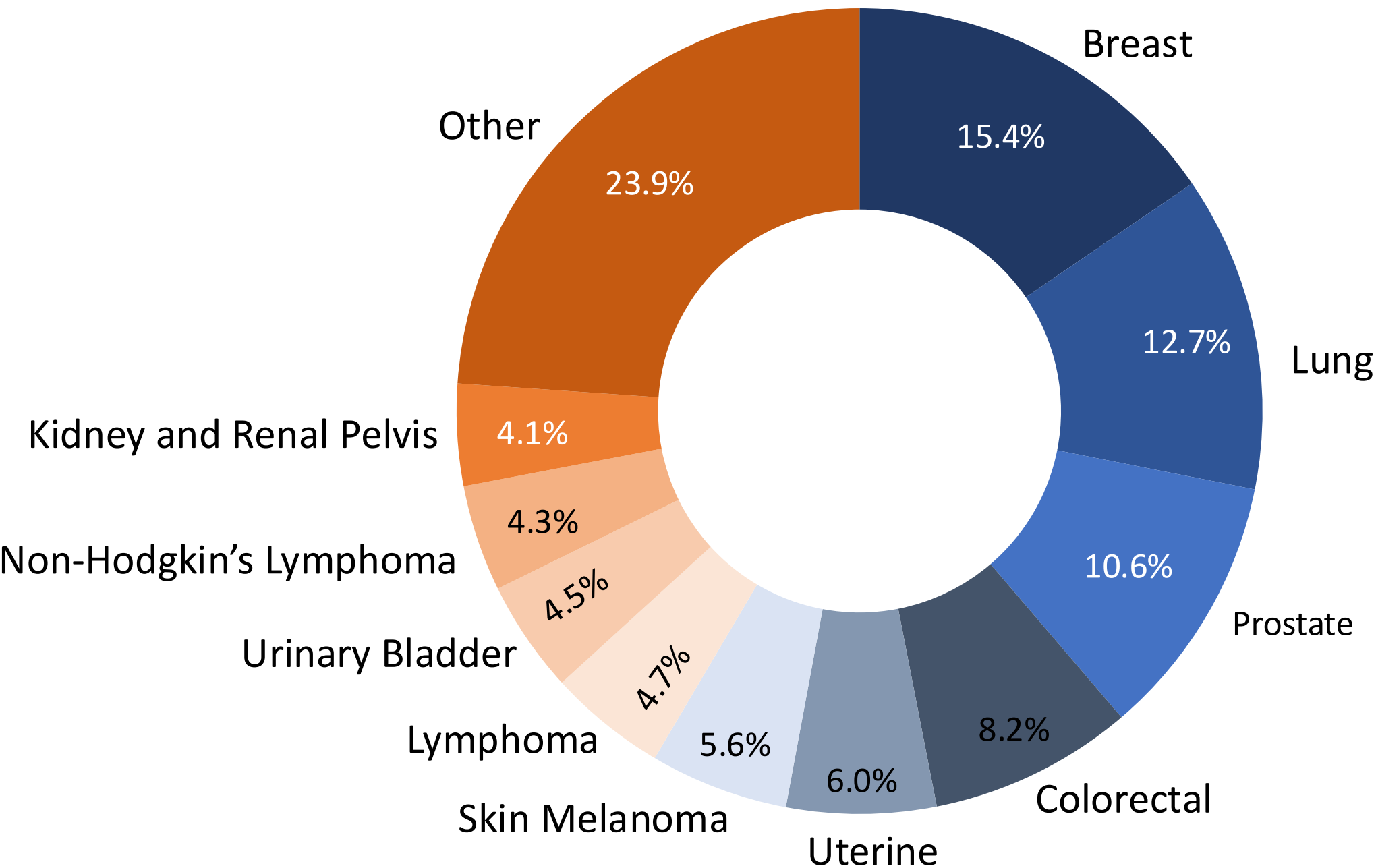


### Common Improvement Opportunities:

- Embedding non-physicians in the care model
- Optimizing top-of-license work
- Allowing APPs to see certain patients independently
- Shifting non-oncological E&Ms to APPs or elsewhere

# The Rapidly Evolving Field of Oncology Medicine

**Cancer Disease Site Distribution**  
*Based on U.S. National Data*



**Impact on Cancer Program Landscape**



Source: American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts & Figures 2020.



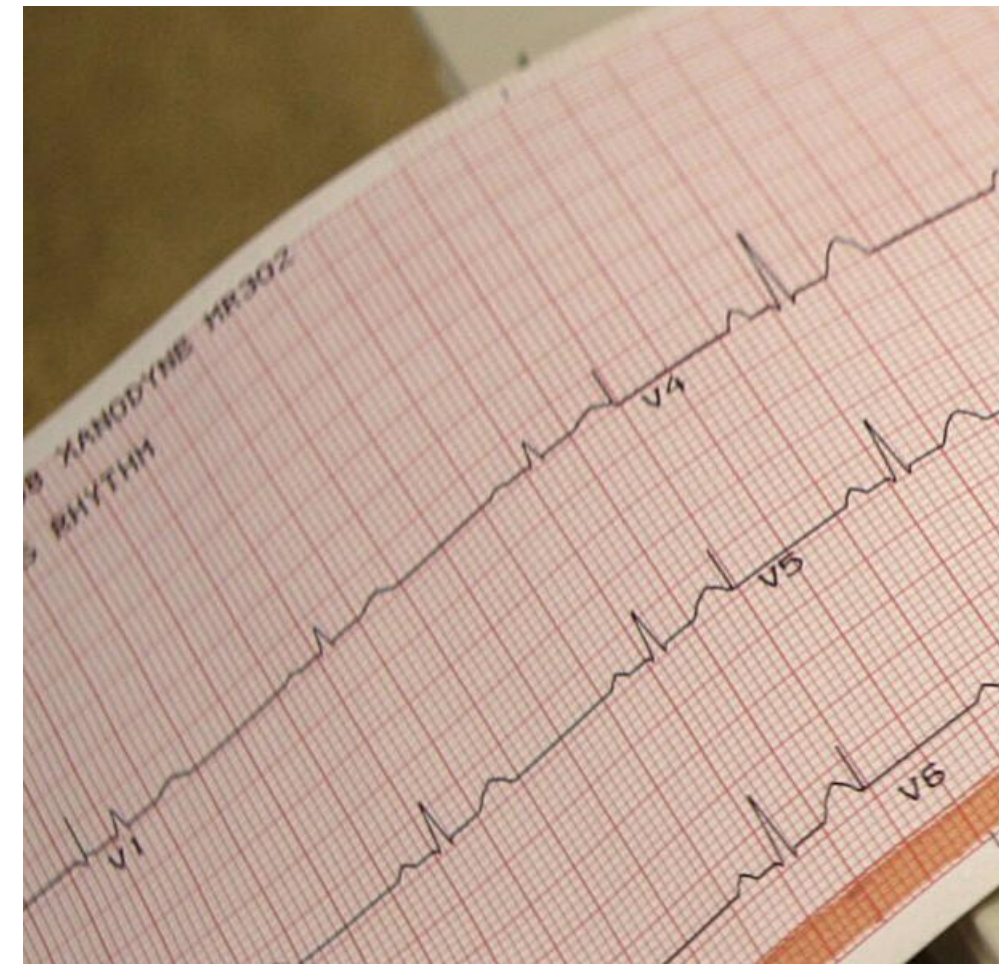
# Market Disruption

- Ongoing consolidation and partnership formations
- Private equity new entrants
- Non-traditional care delivery alternatives (e.g., home health, telehealth, retail)
- Artificial intelligence (AI)

UnitedHealth grew very big. Now, some lawmakers want to chop it down. *April 30, 2024*  
**The Washington Post**



Opinion: It's not just hype. AI could revolutionize diagnosis in medicine  
**Los Angeles Times** *July 9, 2024*



**Here's why hospital deals are heating up**  
**Modern Healthcare**  
*August 2, 2024*





# Putting The Pieces Together

## Oncology Market Trends...

- More patients
- Aging population
- Rising costs
- Workforce limitations
- Larger systems
- Unprecedented pace of innovation

## ...That Will Necessitate More/Better Use of:

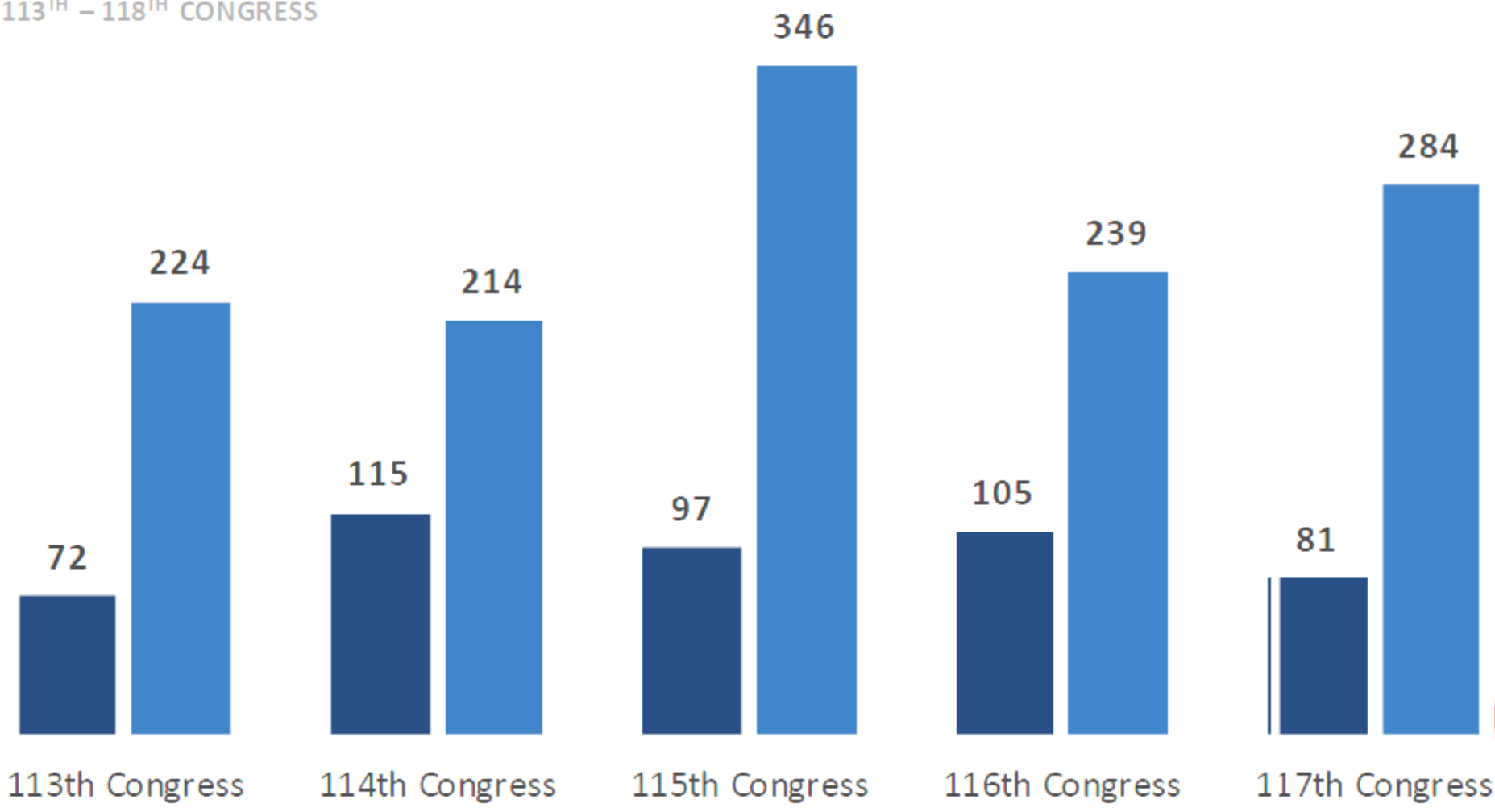
- Team-based care delivery models
- Dedicated, disease site-specific patient navigation
- New digital tools and AI technologies
- Data standardization, automation, and optimization
- Precision medicine
- Early detection & prevention

# Policy Updates and ACCC Priorities

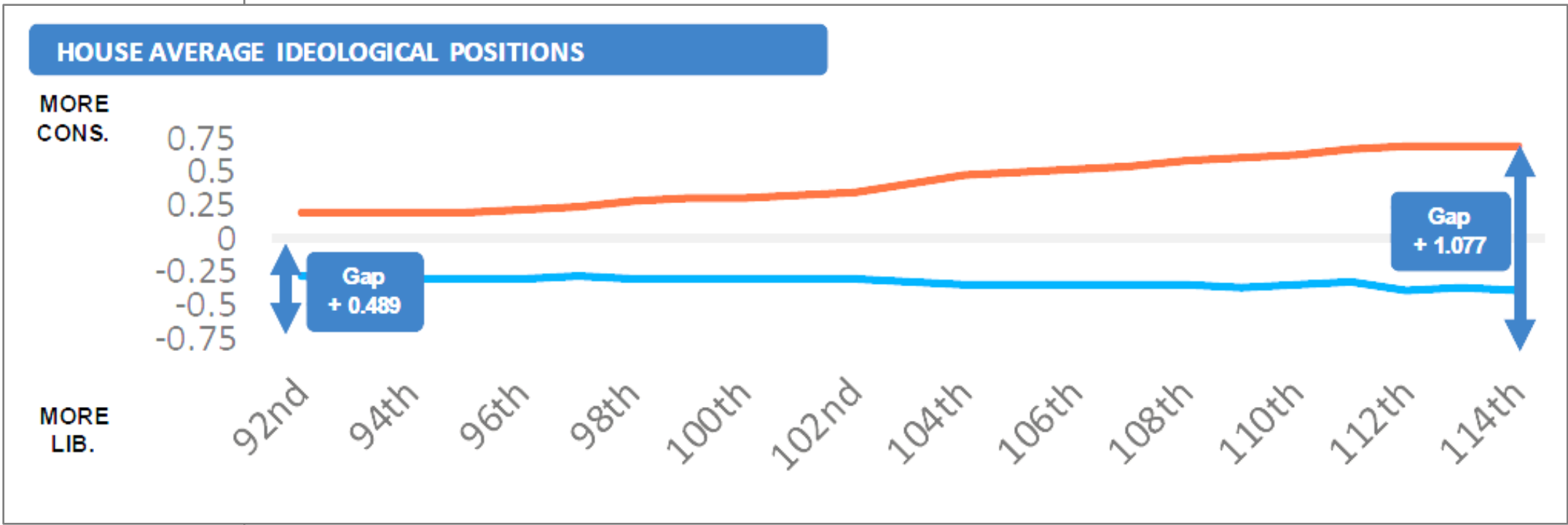
# Landscape Pulse: The Current Climate in Washington, D.C.

The 118th Congress is on track to be the least productive in several decades

ENACTED LEGISLATION  
113<sup>TH</sup> – 118<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

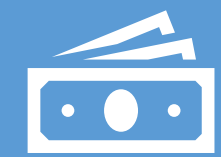


SOURCE Congress.gov, Rational360, GovTrack, US Senate, US House  
PRESENTATION CENTER 5/14/24



Source: Office of Congressional and Government Affairs. July 30, 2024 Report.

# Major Policy Updates



Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)



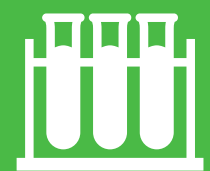
Prior Authorization Reform



Navigation Reimbursement



Drug Shortages



Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) Screening Tests



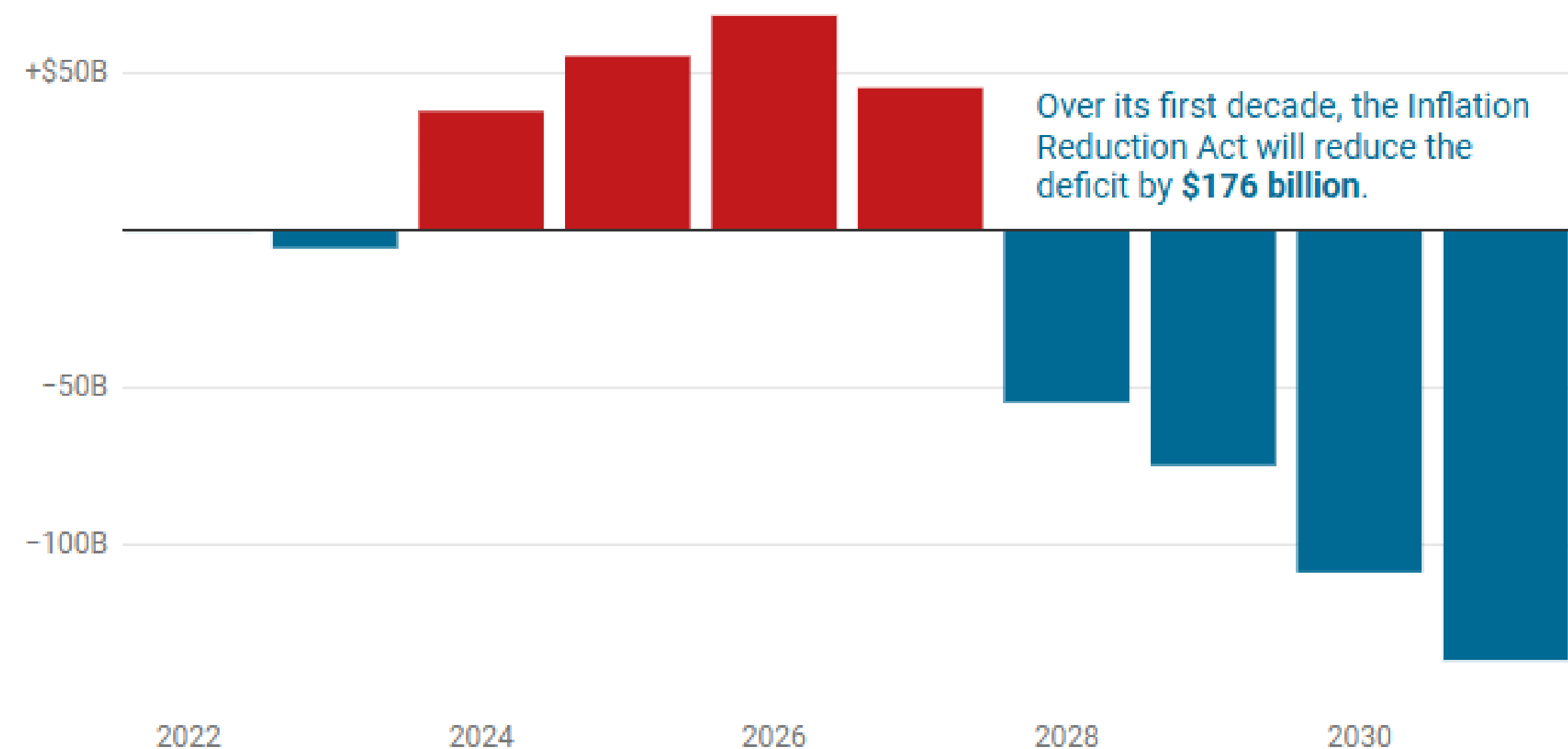
Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) Reform



# The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022

## The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will lead to large savings over time

The IRA's projected impact on the deficit in each fiscal year, 2022–2031



## Key Points:

- Overall **goal = lower costs**
- Marks a **significant change**; largest reform passed in over a decade (since the ACA)
- Allows **Medicare to negotiate directly** with drug manufacturers
- **Oncology drugs** anticipated to remain (and likely increase in number) on Medicare negotiation list
- **Caps out-of-pocket drug costs** for Medicare beneficiaries (Part D coverage)

Source: Center for American Progress. Calculations based on data from Congressional Budget Office, "Estimated Budgetary Effects of Public Law 117-169, to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of S. Con. Res. 14" (Washington: 2022), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/58455>.

# Prior Authorization (PA) Reform



## The Problem:

- Providers are facing growing PA challenges in the private and public insurance markets.
- Payers use as a **utilization management mechanism** to curb unnecessary medical care, but **lack of transparency concerns**.
- In reality, PA requirements can:
  - **Hinder patients' access** to life-saving treatment
  - Lead to **harmful delays** in patient care
  - Exacerbate the **administrative work burden** placed onto provider practices

## The Latest Policy Intervention(s):

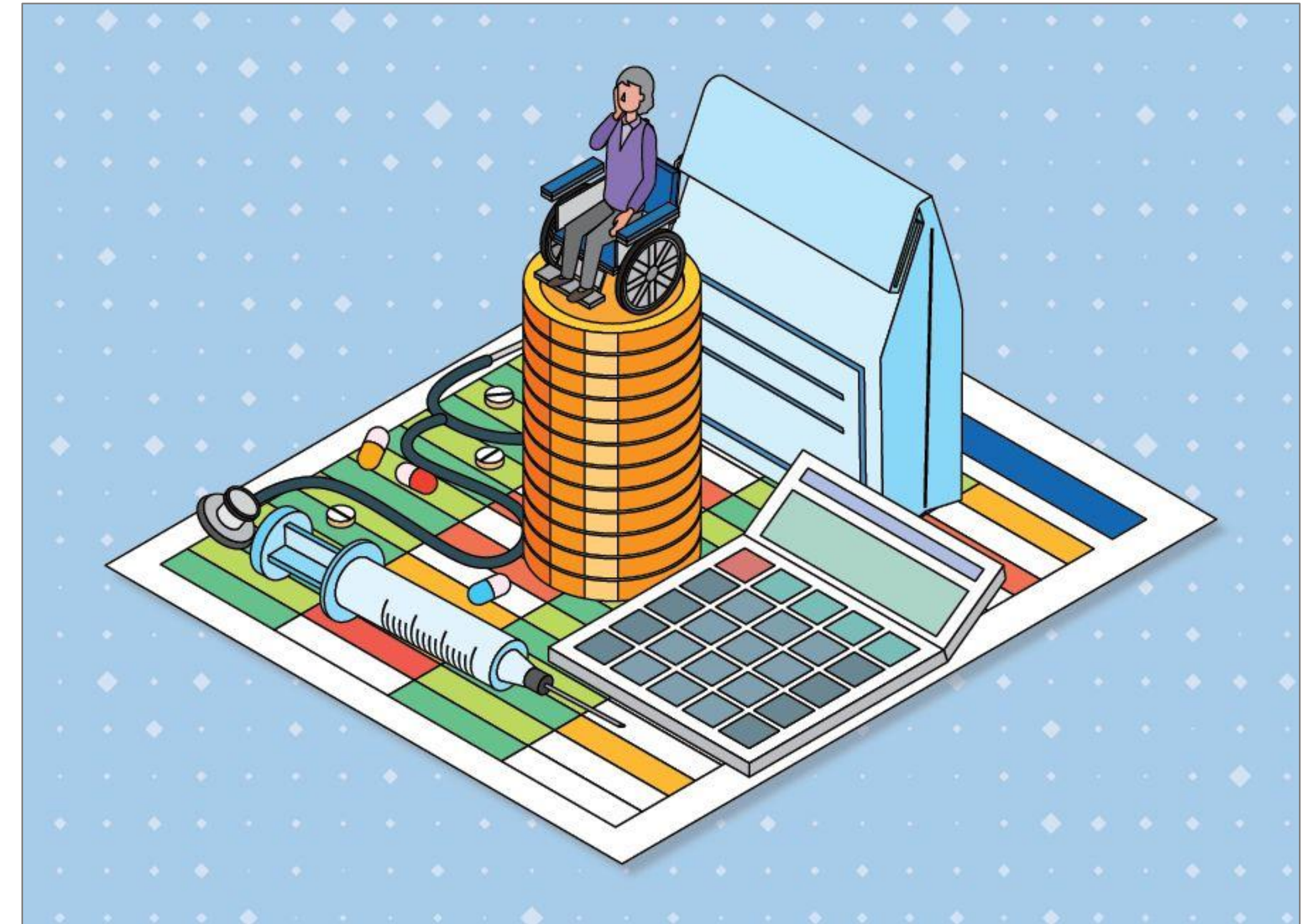
- Recently issued **HHS regulation** imposed several key protections (e.g., timelines for PA decisions, new electronic interoperability requirements).
- Similar but diluted **federal legislation** reintroduced in June 2024 (*Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*<sup>1</sup>); included some, but not all, of these same protections.
- **Two major gaps unaddressed** in federal reforms to date: PA decisions relating to drugs and commercial plans.
- **Takeaway:** Comprehensive legislation still needed.

<sup>1</sup> Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 8702/S. 4532).



# Reimbursement for Patient Navigation Services

- **Medicare began reimbursing** for patient navigation on January 1<sup>st</sup> (overdue, but still progress!).
- Applies to **four new categories** of navigation services and related risk assessments.
- ACCC members have actively been working to implement the new navigation codes in 2024; have found **some major challenges/concerns still exist**, requiring resolution with CMS going into 2025.
- Policymakers hope that increased use of navigation will help **reduce disparities** in accessing quality cancer care.



Source: Image from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, "Health Policy and the 2024 Election", Fall 2024 Report. <https://sph.emory.edu/features/2024/presidential-election/health-policy/>.

# With Broader Health Equity Aims on The Radar

- New navigation codes represent **part of CMS's broader efforts** to reduce disparities in health and health care.
- **CMS's recent Framework for Health Equity** lays out five priorities for the Agency to address to reduce disparities by 2032 (priorities like data standardizations, workforce capacity building, health literacy).
- But...**Election results will influence** the pace and prioritization of health equity-related policies over the near term (next 2-4 years).
- **Expected shift** away from the health equity lens under a Trump-led divided government or Republication Trifecta.

## CMS Office of Minority Health Director's Foreword

"As the nation's largest health insurer, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has a critical role to play in driving the next decade of health equity for people who are underserved. Our unwavering commitment to advancing health equity will help foster a health care system that benefits all for generations to come."



Dr. Martin Mendoza, Director, CMS Office of Minority Health,  
Chief Health Equity Officer, CMS

Source: CMS Framework for Health Equity website.  
<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/health-equity/minority-health/equity-programs/framework>



# In Summary: What's ACCC Doing?



Source: Image from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health,  
"Health Policy and the 2024 Election", Fall 2024 Report.

## 2024 Advocacy Priorities: *(many continuing into 2025)*

- IRA Implementation
- PA Reform and Financial Toxicity
- Drug Shortages
- Patient Navigation Reimbursement

## 2025 Sneak Peek: *(select examples only; not a comprehensive list)*

- Clinical Trials
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Monitoring of other cost containment efforts coming down the pike

# Final Takeaways





# Real-Life Patient Example: **Annie's Story**



# Future Vision: End-to-End Best-in-Class Cancer Care for All

## Illustrative Patient Journey: Lung Cancer Example

