



Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor of your local newspaper help to raise awareness about sarcoma and the needs of the sarcoma community. Even if your letter is not printed, letters to the editor help educate the editorial board and influence creates awareness about sarcoma. This increases the likelihood of opinions, other letters and stories being published by the newspaper.

Below are tips for effective letters to the editor.

- ✓ It is okay to edit the letter to make it your own voice. You can include personal insight and expression. Please do not send the same letter to different news outlets. Each letter you submit should be unique.
- ✓ If your letter is in reference to particular legislation or public policy advocacy, be sure to name your representative and/or senators so that your letter, if published, reaches your members of Congress quickly. Congressional staff monitor media “hits” for their offices daily. If your member of Congress is on a relevant committee related to your issue, be sure to include that detail in your letter.
- ✓ If you email your letter, send your message as text only. Do not use attachments. Also, do not cc: your letter to any organization or individual. If you want someone else to see your letter, copy the letter into a separate email.
- ✓ Always include a daytime telephone number and your mailing address in case the newspaper wants to verify you as the author. If you submit a letter by regular mail or fax, don’t forget to sign it. Many newspapers won’t publish a letter without a signature.
- ✓ Remember that it may take a week or more from the time a newspaper receives a letter before it gets published. Weekly papers and news magazines take even longer.
- ✓ Small-circulation newspapers usually print most of the letters they receive. It’s more challenging to get a letter printed in major metropolitan newspapers, as they receive a larger number of letters.

Below is a sample letter to the editor to get you started. If you have any questions please reach out to SFA at programs@curesarcoma.org.

Sample Letter to the Editor:

Date

LTE: check newspaper website for how to address letters to the editor

Name of Newspaper

City of Publication

Dear Editor:

As a sarcoma **advocate/survivor**, I have seen first-hand how devastating a sarcoma cancer diagnosis can be. What is truly distressing is that in 2020 about 16,000 women, men and children will be diagnosed with some form of sarcoma and 7,000 of people will die of this disease.

While the disease is considered rare in adults, comprising just 1 percent of all adult cancers, it is rather prevalent in children, making up approximately 20 percent of all childhood cancers. Because sarcomas are commonly hidden deep in the body, it is often diagnosed at a later stage when it is more difficult to treat. There are few treatment options for sarcoma and an extreme need for new therapies.

Unfortunately, funding for sarcoma research is greatly limited. Without more research funding, sarcoma will continue to lag behind other cancers that are seeing innovative breakthroughs and advancements in therapies. The sarcoma community is determined to change that by advocating for sarcoma patients through funding research, educating and empowering patients, and by increasing awareness about the disease.

Each July, the sarcoma community unites for Sarcoma Awareness Month, with the goal of raising increased attention for sarcoma – attention that we believe will help in efforts to generate increased research and new treatment options.

Bringing attention to the unmet needs of sarcoma patients and survivors help in our efforts to spur more research, leading to much needed treatments.

Your Name

Address

Phone:

E-mail: