

## Ilhaam “Illy” Jaffer: Elevating Patient Voices, Creating Lifesaving Policies & Conquering Cancer

Podcast | Madam Policy

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Ilhaam “Illy” Jaffer is a woman on a mission: to lead the fight for a world without cancer. Illy, a savvy political veteran, is powerful, fearless, and tenacious. As Director of Federal Government Relations for the American Cancer Society, Illy amplifies the voices of cancer patients, shapes health policy, and helps ensure equity in the distribution of funds, inclusion in studies, and more. In a conversation led by hosts [Dee Martin](#) and Yasmin Nelson, Illy discusses how her work in federal and state politics helped make her a strong advocate for the important work of the ACS. She also dives into women’s health, discussing reproductive rights and the importance of not dismissing early signs of illness, sharing her scary journey of being diagnosed with Lyme Disease. Illy leaves listeners with advice to trust your instinct, believe in your abilities, and validate yourself.

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**E. Dee Martin**

Partner

**WASHINGTON, DC**

+1.202.828.5818

[dee.martin@bracewell.com](mailto:dee.martin@bracewell.com)

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