

2024 Pennsylvania Legislative Priorities

Victory in the fight against cancer requires bold public policies. Lawmakers are vital to defeating this disease. In 2024 the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) will work with the Pennsylvania General Assembly in advancing three priority areas: Ensuring Access to Quality Care, Cancer Prevention and Early Detection, and Reducing the Toll of Tobacco. We ask for support of the following fact-based policies:

Ensuring Access to Quality Care

- **Access to Biomarker Testing:** ACS CAN supports SB 954 and HB 1754, which would establish biomarker testing as a covered benefit in Pennsylvania. Improving cancer outcomes increasingly relies on the use of precision medicine, by using information about a person's biospecimens to better diagnose and treat diseases like cancer. Biomarker testing and targeted therapies can lead to improved survivorship and quality of life for Pennsylvanians with cancer and other illnesses. Yet, insurance coverage fails to keep pace with biomarker testing innovation and advancements. Please support comprehensive, disease agnostic biomarker testing legislation.
- **Prescription Drug Affordability:** ACS CAN supports SB 972, which restricts the use of copay accumulator adjustments in health insurance plans. Please support legislation that ensures third party prescription drug copay assistance is counted toward patients' out-of-pocket cost obligations.
- **Reduce Patient Medical Debt:** ACS CAN supports HB 78 and the Governor's Executive Budget proposal to address Pennsylvanians' medical debt. In addition to supporting policies that ensure affordable access to comprehensive healthcare coverage, ACS CAN requests support for policies that prevent the occurrence of medical debt and reduce the impact of medical debt on individuals and families with cancer and other illnesses.
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave:** ACS CAN supports HB 181 and SB 580, which would establish a paid family and medical leave program for Pennsylvania workers. Please support legislation to ensure all working cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers have access to paid family and medical leave that allows them to take time off to attend to their own or a loved one's care without losing their job or income.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

- **Breast and Cervical Cancer:** ACS CAN supports the protection of funding of \$2.563 million for the Pennsylvania Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, within the Department of Health. This program serves low-income uninsured and underinsured women.



Reducing the Toll of Tobacco

- **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding:** ACS CAN supports the protection of funding for fact-based, statewide tobacco prevention and cessation programs at 4.5% of the Tobacco Settlement Fund (or \$16.2 million in 2023). This funding will allow the program to continue its efforts to help people quit smoking and to prevent the next generation from becoming addicted to tobacco products.
- **Smoke-free Air:** ACS CAN supports legislation to remove exemptions in Pennsylvania's Clean Indoor Air Act to prohibit all smoking, including e-cigarettes and marijuana, in all workplaces including bars and casinos.

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ACS CAN is making cancer a top priority for public officials and candidates at the federal, state, and local levels. ACS CAN empowers advocates across the country to make their voices heard and influence evidence-based public policy change as well as legislative and regulatory solutions that will reduce the cancer burden. As the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN is critical to the fight for a world without cancer. For more information, please visit www.fightcancer.org.

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