

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
North Dakota Day at the Capitol 2017  
65th North Dakota Legislative Assembly**

**Volunteer Training**

**Goals:**

- 1) To introduce lawmakers to constituents affected by cancer.
- 2) Persuade lawmakers to:
  - a. Support HB 1012 to reauthorize Medicaid Expansion;
  - b. Support SB 2004 which includes funding for tobacco prevention and cessation.

**Strategy:**

Your meeting with your lawmakers will likely not last more than 5-15 minutes, depending on if they are able to stay for the entire luncheon. You have a limited amount of time to make your meeting effective. **It is very important that you understand that you are attending the day at the capitol as part of a larger group and this is not the time to share your own personal legislative agenda or organization objectives. You are representing the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and all participants should talk about the same issues.**

**Before the Luncheon:**

- 1) Familiarize yourself with the fact sheets and messages.
- 2) Once we've grouped you by your district, choose a lead spokesperson and decide who will deliver the hook, the line and the sinker for your group.
- 3) We will assign your group a table. Please stay at that table and your lawmakers will be joining you there.

**During the Luncheon:**

A "Hook, Line and Sinker" strategy will help you stay on message and accomplish your goals. You should give the lawmaker the information packet at the beginning of the meeting.

**Hook - Who you are**

At the beginning of the meeting, everyone should introduce themselves by giving their names and letting their lawmakers know that they are constituents. It is very important that your lawmaker knows that you are visiting with him/her as a constituent. You should also let your lawmaker know that you are there today participating in the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's Day at the Capitol as a cancer survivor, cancer patient, caregiver, family member, friend or health care provider.

### **Line - Why you care**

This is your opportunity to let your lawmaker know how cancer has affected your life. Share your personal story or experience with cancer to make your lawmaker realize that cancer is more than just facts and figures; it affects real people, their families and their communities. Think about what you want a lawmaker to know about what it means to be diagnosed with cancer, to be a caregiver for someone with cancer or to work with cancer patients. **Your “line” should be no longer than 2 minutes.** You can start your line with, “We are here to today to talk with you about important cancer issues because...” or “Cancer must be a legislative priority because...”.

### **Sinker - What you want**

Tell your lawmaker: “Cancer is an important legislative issue and we need your support in the fight against cancer.”

- 1) Cancer is the one of the leading causes of death in North Dakota and the number one cause of death from disease in people under the age of 65.
- 2) We need your support for important cancer control programs.
  - Will you vote “yes” on HB 1259 to re-authorize Medicaid Expansion and provide access to healthcare for over 20,000 North Dakotans?
  - Will you vote “yes” on SB 2004, the budget for the Department of Health which includes at least \$14 million for tobacco prevention and cessation?

**Make sure you give out the one-page issue statement for legislators.**

**Remember to thank your legislator for making the time to meet with you!**

### **After the luncheon:**

- 1) Complete the lawmaker visit report form for each lawmaker present at the luncheon.
- 2) Write a group thank you note for each lawmaker you meet with.
- 3) Turn in the completed lawmaker visit report form and thank you notes to ACS CAN staff.

## 2017 ACS CAN Day at the Capitol Legislative “Asks”

### **Ask #1: Please vote YES on HB 1259 to re-authorize Medicaid Expansion.**

#### **Message to all Lawmakers:**

Without expanded access to Medicaid, nearly 20,000 North Dakotans would be left without affordable health coverage. These North Dakotans are our friends and family who work in restaurants, home care, construction workers, retail stores just to name a few.

Providing low-income adults and families access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage is critical in the fight against cancer. Individuals and families with health care coverage are more likely to detect cancers early, when treatment is more effective and less costly. Having health care coverage also helps save lives by preventing some cancers from occurring in the first place.

Please vote YES on HB 1259 to protect and improve access to health care coverage through Medicaid by reauthorizing Medicaid Expansion to cover all individuals up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Status of HB 1259: This bill is currently in the House Appropriations Committee (Will fill in with up to date information)**

### **Ask #2: Please vote YES on SB 2004, which includes \$14 million for tobacco prevention and cessation.**

#### **Message to all Lawmakers:**

North Dakota is currently ranked #1 in the nation when it comes to funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs according to CDC recommendations. ACS CAN supports a fully funded, comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program as an evidence-based solution to reducing tobacco use by young people.

In North Dakota, the youth smoking rates have decreased from 22% to 11% over the past decade with the high level of prevention and cessation funding. Our programs are working! Other states with high levels of funding for prevention and cessation have seen similar results among youth.

If we are going to continue to see progress towards reducing tobacco use, we must utilize the evidence-based solutions that work, and that includes a comprehensive tobacco control program.

Please vote YES on SB 2004 with at least \$14 million in funding for tobacco control programs.

**Status of SB 2004: This bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee (Will fill in with up to date information)**

**Notes:**