

2016 Legislative Priorities in Tennessee



Expand and preserve programs that reduce cancer in Tennessee

Support increased funding for TN Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program

- Current funding levels provide screening for only 16 percent of the 85,000 women eligible for the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program. Increasing the state contribution by \$192,000 will serve 594 more women in Tennessee.
- Every woman who is eligible deserves access to mammograms and Pap tests to screen for breast and cervical cancer, because early detection saves lives.

Support continued funding of TennCare smoking cessation program

- Maintaining state funding for smoking cessation services for TennCare enrollees will help smokers quit and reduce downstream tobacco-related health care costs. Of the more than 1.2 million TennCare enrollees, 33 percent are smokers. Among people who are not covered by TennCare, 21 percent are smokers.

Improve Quality of life: Equalize out-of-pocket costs for intravenous and oral chemotherapy drugs

Support SB2091 (Ketron) / HB2239 (Lambert) Cancer Treatment Fairness Act

- While the majority of frontline cancer chemotherapy treatments are administered to patients intravenously in the physician's office, oral chemotherapy can be taken at home, requiring less time off work and less travel time to medical facilities.
- The out-of-pocket cost disparity between IV and oral chemotherapy can restrict patient access to lifesaving therapies and lead patients to make treatment decisions based on cost rather than a doctor's recommendation.

Broaden access to health coverage for low-income Tennesseans

- Hard-working, low-income families need the security of quality health coverage to get lifesaving care when they need it, without facing huge medical bills.
- An estimated 363,000 Tennesseans would become eligible for health insurance coverage if the state accepted federal funds.
- ACS CAN encourages state leaders to accept federal funds available to help prevent and treat serious diseases such as cancer, and support Governor Haslam's Insure Tennessee plan.

Save lives by increasing Tennessee's tobacco tax

- Raising the state tax on cigarettes by a minimum of \$1.00 and by an equivalent amount on other tobacco products would:
 - Prevent at least 32,900 children from becoming tobacco users.
 - Save at least 21,400 lives from premature death from tobacco use.
 - Generate a minimum of \$276.08 million in new, annual tax revenue.

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