



# Advocates, Action Takers, and Ambassadors Needed

Fighting cancer doesn't just happen in your doctor's office.

Lawmakers at every level have the opportunity to take steps to lessen the suffering of those affected by cancer. Every January, the Idaho State Legislature begins debating issues and drafting laws that could positively or negatively impact you and your family. As a cancer survivor, caregiver, or someone touched by cancer, your voice is needed to inform these debates and ensure the solutions offered work for regular Idahoans.

As we prepare for the 2016 Idaho legislative session your voice is needed more than ever! You may not realize it yet, but as an ACS CAN member, you are uniquely positioned to make a difference here in our state.



## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

There are many ways to make your voice heard in the halls of government. Some don't even require you to leave your home. Some offer an opportunity to meet others in your community who have faced a cancer diagnosis and are struggling with how to fight back against this disease. Some of you might even get the chance to spend a day at the state capitol or have a cup of hot chocolate with your legislator!

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Your cancer story can make a difference to prevent cancer and benefit cancer patients, caregivers, and others. By sharing the stories of advocates like you, ACS CAN is better able to tell lawmakers and the media about the concerns of real cancer patients and their caregivers. Sharing your story about the struggles of cancer diagnosis, treatment, and access to care can help demonstrate how enacting and implementing policies related to screening, insurance, research funding, and access to quality care during and after treatment could have impacted you and may benefit others.

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You can share as much or as little of your cancer story as you feel comfortable, and you can share it in many ways that can impact what our lawmakers do. If you are interested in sharing your story, please contact Jennifer Poole at [Jennifer.poole@cancer.org](mailto:Jennifer.poole@cancer.org)

## TAKE ACTION!

A key ingredient to passing important cancer-related legislation is as many constituents as possible making phone calls, writing letters, sending emails in response to ACS CAN action alerts, or making personal visits with legislators. This could include submitting a Letter to the Editor of your area newspaper and gathering stories from others in your community. We can provide you with all the information you need and tips on taking action effectively.



If you already engaging in one or more of these activities, consider becoming a legislative ambassador for ACS CAN! A legislative ambassador works with other volunteers and staff to promote activities, priorities, and grassroots involvement at the local, state, and federal levels year-round within their community. Training included!

For more information on becoming an Idaho ACS CAN legislative ambassador, email [Jennifer.poole@cancer.org](mailto:Jennifer.poole@cancer.org).

## JOIN US FOR 2016 ID ACS CAN DAY AT THE CAPITOL, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016!

Legislation that could impact access to screening and treatment are always under consideration in Boise during the state legislative session. 2016 will be no different.

There is nothing more impactful for legislators than to meet in person with people from their district. Our ACS CAN volunteer Day at the Capitol is a fun, inspiring and meaningful way to engage in your democracy.

Travel assistance is available and breakfast and lunch are provided. More details about Day at the Capitol and the issues to be covered will be coming soon. Right now, just get the date blocked off on your calendar!

## RENEW YOUR ACS CAN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Your annual ACS CAN membership of \$10 or more helps fund ACS CAN's efforts to encourage more people to FIGHT BACK against cancer by educating advocates about who their elected officials are, collecting petition signatures and delivering them to elected officials, and funding Idaho Day at the Capitol, Leadership Summit and Lobby Day in Washington, DC, and other ACS CAN activities. Renew at [www.acscan.org](http://www.acscan.org)



## 2015 Leadership Summit and Lobby Day in Washington, DC

Idaho's ACS CAN leadership volunteers joined more than 750 cancer patients, survivors, volunteers and staff from all 50 states and nearly every congressional district in Washington, D.C., as part of the annual American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) Leadership Summit and Lobby Day. Advocates urged Congress to take specific steps to help end a disease that still kills 1,600 Americans every day.

ACS CAN State Lead Ambassador Dawn Snapp and Congressional District Lead Ambassadors Kandie Bodrero and Heather Caro met with Senators Crapo and Risch and Congressmen Mike Simpson and Raul Labrador to discuss the need to support an increase in federal funding for cancer research. They also asked our Members of Congress to co-sponsor legislation that supports and improves patients' quality of life, as well as legislation that would make colorectal cancer screenings more affordable for Medicare patients.



The ACS CAN Lobby Day culminated with an evening Lights of Hope ceremony in front of the U.S. Capitol Reflecting Pool featuring thousands of luminarias lit in honor of cancer survivors or loved ones who lost their battle with the disease.

[Lights of HOPE time-lapse video](#)