

TOGETHER, WE CAN DEFEAT CANCER!



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) was founded in 2001 as the nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. Although they are separate organizations, the Society and ACS CAN have a shared mission of eliminating death and suffering from cancer.

What is ACS CAN?

ACS CAN is the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer. The organization ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government. As the Society's advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority.

Why ACS CAN?

Defeating cancer is as much a matter of public policy as scientific discovery. Lawmakers play a critical role in determining how much progress our country makes toward defeating cancer. ACS CAN gives a voice to those impacted by the disease as they encourage lawmakers at all levels of government to join the fight to make cancer a national priority.

ACS CAN's work has resulted in enormous progress through increased funding for cancer research and prevention programs, stronger tobacco control policies nationwide, and improved access to the full range of cancer care for people diagnosed with the disease and their families. By focusing national attention on the cancer fight, raising funds, educating voters, and rallying others to join the fight, ACS CAN unites and empowers people with cancer and their families to help save lives.

What does ACS CAN do?

ACS CAN's work helps advance the Society's mission to defeat cancer by helping to protect and increase public investment in groundbreaking medical research, and by improving access nationwide to the latest prevention and early detection measures, treatments, and follow-up care that are proven to save lives. Like the Society, ACS CAN follows the science when supporting evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

ACS CAN utilizes its expert lobbying, policy, grassroots, and communications capacity to amplify the voices of patients in support of laws and policies that save lives from cancer. And through Cancer Votes, ACS CAN's voter education program, ACS CAN is working to make sure candidates for public office are aware of the impact cancer has on the people they represent and why they should make the fight against the disease a priority once they're in office.

What does ACS CAN not do?

ACS CAN does not endorse candidates or political parties, and it is not a political action committee (PAC). The organization does educate voters by serving as a trusted source of information about candidate positions on cancer related concerns and on key issue campaigns across the country that impact those affected by cancer. Like cancer itself, ACS CAN is nonpartisan.

What issues does ACS CAN work on and why?

- **Cancer research funding** – A strong and sustained federal investment in cancer research funding will yield scientific breakthroughs that save lives.
- **Strong smoke-free laws and higher tobacco taxes** – These measures are proven to reduce tobacco use, the largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States.
- **Lifesaving screening programs** – Programs that increase access to proven cancer screenings, especially among medically underserved populations, save lives and are good for the economy.
- **Access to quality, affordable health care** – More than 300,000 people in the United States die from cancer each year because they lack access to affordable, adequate, quality care and treatment, and millions of others are forced to skip lifesaving care or spend their savings to pay for it.
- **Nutrition and physical activity** – An estimated one out of every three cancer deaths in the United States is linked to excess body weight, poor nutrition, or physical inactivity.

What's the difference between the American Cancer Society and ACS CAN?

The Society and ACS CAN play different, but equally important, roles in finding the end to cancer.

American Cancer Society

The nation's largest private not-for-profit community based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem

Saves lives and creates a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well, helping people get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back

Has a presence in more than 6,100 local communities in the US and around the world

Largest source of private, not-for-profit cancer research funds in the US, including grants made to 46 future Nobel Prize winners

Educates the public about cancer treatment, prevention, and screening tests

ACS CAN

The leading patient advocacy organization dedicated to passing evidence-based laws that help fight cancer

Educates the public, lawmakers, and candidates about public policy issues that impact cancer patients and their families

Organized in all 50 states and 435 congressional districts to conduct high-impact federal, state, and local issue campaigns

Advocates for strong and sustained federal investments in cancer research funding that yield scientific breakthroughs that save lives

Advocates for strong and sustained federal and state government investment in cancer treatment, prevention, and screening tests



fightcancer.org