

2015 ACS CAN Missouri End of Legislative Session Recap



The Missouri General Assembly ended its 2015 session on Friday, May 15. Although this legislative session was one of the most turbulent in recent history, ACS CAN's volunteers and advocates were persistent in making cancer issues a priority for legislators. Over 2,000 bills were introduced this session, but only 130 bills passed both the House and Senate and were sent to the governor's desk. ACS CAN Missouri's priorities this session were:

1. Palliative Care and Quality of Life;
2. Funding for Show Me Healthy Women; and
3. Funding for Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation.

On Wednesday, March 4, volunteers joined forces in Jefferson City for ACS CAN Missouri's Annual Day at the Capitol to advocate on behalf of these issues and to share personal cancer stories.

Legislative Priorities & Results

Palliative Care and Quality of Life

-HB 808 sponsored by Representative Cornejo and SB 496 sponsored by Senator Hegeman would create a state advisory council on palliative care and quality of life to identify barriers preventing access to palliative care for patients with a serious or long-term illness.

-End of Session Status: HB 808 passed the House by a vote of 143-7, then passed the Senate Committee by a vote of 7-0, but later died on the Senate calendar.

[-Visit our Palliative Care](#) page to learn how it can improve a patient's quality of life.

Funding for Show Me Healthy Women

-HB 10 (House budget bill regarding funding for Health, Mental Health, and Senior Services)

-This life-saving program provides free pap tests to women aged 35 to 64, and mammograms to women aged 50 to 64 who are low-income and uninsured. Maintaining funding for SMHW will preserve a critical safety net for thousands of Missouri women who are currently lacking access to essential screening, diagnostic and treatment services.

-End of Session Status: Governor Nixon signed HB 10 into law, which maintained \$500,000 in funding for SMHW, Missouri's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection (BCCEDP) program.

[-Visit our Show Me Healthy Women page](#) to learn more or to find a provider near you.

Funding for Tobacco Prevention and Cessation

-HB 10 (House budget bill regarding funding for Health, Mental Health, and Senior Services)

-Tobacco use claims the lives of 9,500 Missourians each year and causes \$2.13 billion in annual health care costs. Comprehensive tobacco prevention programs prevent youth smoking, help smokers quit, and ultimately save lives and money. Currently, Missouri ranks 50th in spending for tobacco prevention and quit assistance.

-End of Session Status: Governor Nixon signed HB 10 into law, allocating \$100,000, with a federal match, which is a significant increase from previous years.

[-Visit our Tobacco Prevention page](#) to learn more about the toll of tobacco use in Missouri.

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