



NEVADA

ADVOCACY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A brief snapshot of recent ACS CAN legislative accomplishments in support of cancer prevention and cancer patients as achieved by Nevada ACS CAN advocacy volunteers during the period 2010-2015



Policy Accomplishments:

Cigarette Tax Increase: Prior groundwork in past years by ACS CAN to increase the state excise tax on cigarettes helped to leverage ultimate success in 2015 as the state legislature and governor adopted a \$1.00 increase which brought Nevada's tax to \$1.80 per pack. Nevada's cigarette tax increase was the largest of any state during the 2015 legislative season. Regular and significant tobacco tax increases are a proven strategy for helping prevent youth initiation and for helping adult tobacco users to quit.

Electronic Cigarettes: A tobacco industry-friendly bill was introduced in 2015 under the guise of prohibiting the sale of some e-cigarettes to minors, while the bill simultaneously sought to also exempt e-cigarettes from tobacco control laws including tobacco taxation and smoke-free standards for public places. ACS CAN was successful in drawing attention to the downsides of this approach and some key elements of the bill we opposed were ultimately blocked from passage.

Tobacco Control Program Funding: A number of years ago, the state eliminated all appropriations to state tobacco control programs. ACS CAN and its partners were successful in their efforts to restore one million dollars per year in state tobacco control funding for the past and current fiscal year budgets.

Smoke-free Laws: The most recent legislative rollback of the 2006 Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act occurred in 2011 and unfortunately resulted in an amendment that weakened restrictions on smoking in certain bar/restaurant areas. Two local smoke-free initiatives that have been actively supported by ACS CAN staff continue to evolve in Mesquite and Incline Village. ACS CAN actively worked on a campaign to move the University of Nevada, Reno towards a tobacco-free campus, and the University has since eliminated most smoking and tobacco use on campus. The new campus policy took effect August, 2015.

Tanning Restrictions: In 2013, with major support from ACS CAN staff and volunteer advocates in Nevada, our state became the fourth state to prohibit access to tanning beds and related devices by all individuals under the age of 18. It also established safety provisions for adult users not prohibited. The use of tanning beds by children and youth has been determined to be a significant cause of skin cancer.

Oral Chemotherapy Fairness: In 2013, ACS CAN sponsored a successful "oral chemotherapy fairness" law that caps patient out-of-pocket costs for oral chemo drugs at \$100 per prescription. The legislation was passed unanimously by both legislative houses and became effective January 1, 2015.

Cancer Drug Donation Program: in 2009, ACS CAN supported the creation of the Nevada Cancer Drug Donation Program that permits some unused cancer drugs to be recycled and re-prescribed rather than destroyed. However, because of some lingering regulatory barriers, the program was not being utilized

to its full extent. So in 2013, ACS CAN supported the adoption of a helpful amendment that allows doctors who are licensed by the state pharmacy board to receive and re-dispense such donated drugs.

Patient-Centered Medical Homes: ACS CAN assisted the Nevada Primary Care Association with the state's adoption of legislation that will develop a study on the use of patient-centered medical homes in the Nevada health care system.

Affordable Care Act / Medicaid Expansion: ACS CAN staff served as an advisory committee member of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, highlighting numerous cancer issues while the Exchange board made important decisions regarding access to quality, affordable healthcare. The uninsured rate in Nevada significantly declined thanks to more options being made available to consumers.

Grassroots Program Highlights:

Volunteer Team: Nevada's ACS CAN volunteer structure has proven itself to be both solid and effective over the past five years, combining strong Ambassador Constituent Team (ACT!) leadership and additional roles such as a Media Chair, Young Adult Engagement Chair, and the first-in-the-nation Diversity Engagement Ambassador. The outgoing State Lead Ambassador (SLA) led the Act Team during this period and she has been recognized for her outstanding leadership and contributions to ACS CAN as well as the American Cancer Society by her receipt of the prestigious St. George National Award. She has been named to the ACS CAN Western Advisory Ambassador Team.

Cancer Votes: Nevada's team participated in two recent Cancer Votes campaigns designed to increase the visibility of important cancer-related public policy issues during state and federal election cycles. As a direct result of that Cancer Votes program outreach, a new state legislative champion emerged who has sponsored three ACS CAN priority bills in two recent legislative sessions. Our work in support of this electoral program also brought new, committed volunteer advocates to the team.

Advocacy Forums: In recent years, our volunteer leadership helped us develop and host an annual policy issue-focused event and volunteer training that has helped garner external grassroots and corporate interest in support of our current public policy advocacy and fundraising efforts. The annual Nevada Advocacy Forum is an event model that combines volunteer leadership with ACS CAN-focused community engagement and has now been adopted in other states. The forums have allowed ACS CAN to expand its reach to other cancer and public health partners and brought new volunteers and collaborators to the Nevada advocacy effort.

Relay For Life: Our ACS CAN staff and volunteers in Nevada actively support the American Cancer Society's signature Relay For Life event in all local markets. We joined forces with the Relay For Life communities to better connect local advocates with ACS CAN volunteer opportunities. Several Nevada Relay For Life events achieved major milestones in recruiting large numbers of new advocates.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: ACS CAN staff and volunteers are actively engaged in supporting the work of the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer community that seeks to improve cancer prevention, early detection, cancer treatment, and quality of life for breast cancer patients. We exceeded our ACS CAN new member recruitment goals for four of the past five years and our staff and volunteers play an important role in the event execution.