

# 2016 Legislative Roundup



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) was active at the Tennessee State Capitol working to improve patient quality of life, expand and protect programs that reduce the cancer burden in Tennessee, and broaden health care coverage for Tennesseans who are uninsured.

## Expand and preserve programs that reduce the burden of cancer in Tennessee

- Current funding levels for the **Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program** continued at \$1 million annually without increasing the state contribution by \$192,000 as requested.
- Level funding for smoking cessation services for TennCare enrollees was maintained by the legislature, and TennCare broadened access to those who want to quit by removing barriers to proven cessation drugs.

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

- More than 50 ACS CAN advocates packed the Senate Commerce and Insurance committee hearing to support passage of the **Cancer Treatment Fairness Act** to correct the out-of-pocket cost disparity between IV and oral chemotherapy that can restrict patient access to lifesaving therapies and lead them to make treatment decisions based on cost rather than a doctor's recommendation. Despite our best efforts, the bill was opposed by the insurance industry and failed to advance.

## Tobacco Legislation

- ACS CAN supported the effort to close an exemption to the Tennessee Non-Smoker's Protection Act and authorize Davidson County and municipalities located in Sullivan County to prohibit, by local ordinance, smoking on the grounds of a swimming pool or outdoor amphitheater owned or operated by the local government.
- ACS CAN monitored legislation to increase the age of persons allowed to use tobacco and electronic cigarettes from 18 to 21 years of age. Work continues on this issue as a part of a broader strategy to reduce youth smoking.

## Broaden Access to Health Care Coverage for Low-Income Tennesseans

- ACS CAN supported coalition efforts to expand access to health care coverage to uninsured state residents with federal funds available to help prevent and treat serious diseases such as cancer.

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