



2021 New Jersey Legislature

Final Exam

Due June 30, 2021

QUESTION #1

The New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Screening Program (NJCEED) offers a critically important service to men and women who lack health insurance – free cancer screening for breast, cervical, colorectal, and prostate cancer. Detected early, these cancers are more easily treated. Failing to have these cancers detected early can lead to deadly consequences. Governor Murphy’s proposed FY 2021-22 budget **reduces funding** for NJCEED from \$3.5M to \$3.1M.

Did you ensure that all New Jerseyans have access to cancer screening by restoring NJCEED’s budget to \$3.5 million in Fiscal Year 2021-22? Yes/No

QUESTION #2

Step therapy policies are used by health insurers to require a patient to try and fail on one or more drug options before coverage is granted for the medication initially prescribed by the patient’s health care provider. Step therapy can lead to delays in care and result in worsened patient outcomes. Patients need the right medicine at the right time and should not be made to fail first when they meet certain criteria. Reforming step therapy means ensuring the protocols are safe for patients, clinically grounded, transparent to patients and health care providers, and that exception processes are efficient.

Did you reform the practice of step therapy in New Jersey by passing A4815/S3051? Yes/No

QUESTION #3

Beginning in July 2020, for the first time ever, more than 22,000 casino employees and millions of casino patrons in New Jersey were able to breathe fresh air while working at and enjoying New Jersey’s casinos. Meanwhile, according to the American Gaming Association, casino gaming revenues in New Jersey were up 30% in Q1 2021 over 2019 and up 32% over Q1 2020. Those smoke-free protections abruptly came to an end this month and casino employees and patrons are now forced to breathe secondhand smoke while working at and enjoying New Jersey’s casinos. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke has more than 7,000 chemicals, including at least 70 that can cause cancer.

Did you ensure that all New Jersey casino employees and patrons can permanently breathe clean smoke-free air by passing A4541/S1878? Yes/No

QUESTION #4

The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recently updated their colorectal cancer screening guidelines and are in line with the current American Cancer Society guidelines. The new guidelines lowered the screening age for average-risk populations from age 50 to 45 and recommended continued regular screening until age 75. A recent study estimates that 29,400 cases of colorectal cancer and 11,100 colorectal cancer deaths could be prevented during the next 5 years if screening began at 45 years of age. High deductible health plans are concerning for cancer patients and survivors. While in most cases these plans have lower premiums, the plans have higher deductibles and enrollees often pay a much higher share of the cost for health care services.

Did you ensure that all New Jersey health plans are complying with the new guidelines by passing A5034 and reject any efforts to amend the bill to exempt high deductible health plans? Yes/No

QUESTION #5

Nearly 12,000 people die each year from smoking-related diseases of all types in New Jersey. Smoking is responsible for 24.6% of cancer deaths in New Jersey. Over 143,000 kids under 18 who are alive today will ultimately die from smoking if we do not act urgently to intervene. Governor Murphy’s FY 2021-2022 budget estimates that \$920 million in revenue will be raised by the cigarette tax in the fiscal year ending June 2021. The 2017 New Jersey Cigarette Tax Act provides that 1% of the total revenue generated from the state cigarette tax must be dedicated for tobacco control and prevention. Therefore \$9.2 million should be allocated to the state tobacco control program to keep kids from starting to use tobacco and help people already addicted to quit.

Did you ensure that the final budget allocates \$9.2 million to tobacco control and prevention? Yes/No

Final Exam Score

For more information, contact:

Michael Davoli, New York City & New Jersey Government Relations Director, ACS CAN
Michael.Davoli@cancer.org Office: 212.237.3853 Mobile: 518.209.0447 Twitter: ACSCAN_NJ

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network • www.fightcancer.org/NJ

ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard.