

2023 Federal Priorities

During the 118th Congress, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) will advocate for policies and legislation that work to end cancer as we know it, for everyone, by accelerating cures, improving access to care, and ensuring access to cancer prevention services. ACS CAN is committed to supporting initiatives in research, prevention, detection, and provision of patient services to reduce disparities in cancer that will lead to healthier outcomes for cancer patients and survivors.

Major Campaigns

Cancer Research and Prevention Funding (Fiscal Year 2024)

- **Increased Funding Levels for Cancer Research and Prevention.** ACS CAN advocates to ensure continued progress in the fight against cancer at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) cancer programs. Our funding asks include:
 - \$51 billion for the NIH
 - \$9.988 billion for the NCI
 - \$472.4 million for the CDC cancer programs, including at least \$230 million for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP)
 - \$1.5 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)
- ACS CAN also advocates for legislation and funding to collect and make available detailed demographic data to reduce disparities in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment.

Access to Clinical Trials

- **Diversifying Investigations Via Equitable Research Studies for Everyone (DIVERSE) Trials Act.** ACS CAN advocates for passage of the DIVERSE Trials Act to increase diversity in clinical trials and make it easier for all persons with cancer to participate by reducing barriers to enrollment. Barriers may include ancillary costs (non-medical costs) such as transportation and lodging, and remote access to trials, particularly for people who are underrepresented, including certain racial and ethnic groups, older adults, rural residents, and those with limited incomes.

Cancer Prevention Early Detection and Screening

- **Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage (MCED) Act.** ACS CAN advocates for the passage of legislation to improve access to new and innovative cancer screenings for Medicare beneficiaries by creating a pathway to allow Medicare to initiate coverage of multi-cancer tests following FDA approval if clinical benefit is shown.
- **Prostate-Specific Antigen Screening for High-Risk Insured Men (PSA Screening for HIM) Act.** ACS CAN advocates for passage of the legislation to remove cost sharing of PSA testing for those at the highest risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer – African American men and men with a family history of prostate cancer.

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Targeted Campaigns

Access to Health Care

- **Inflation Reduction Act.** ACS CAN is promoting the implementation of certain provisions of this legislation including the three-year extension of enhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies and establishment of a \$2,000 annual out-of-pocket cost cap for Medicare Part D with an option to spread expenses over the plan year.
- **Medicaid Unwinding.** ACS CAN will educate Congress and the Administration on the potential impact of Medicaid Unwinding by sharing patient stories. We are working to ensure states comply with federal law; to ensure that states make their Public Health Emergency unwinding plans public; to confirm that state data submissions are actively monitored, along with tracking the impact on Medicaid beneficiaries; and will urge the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to take corrective action if states fail to comply with requirements of the Consolidated Appropriations Act.
- **Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM).** ACS CAN advocates for federal legislation that promotes transparency and protections for pharmacies, patients, and insurers when working with PBMs.

Patient and Survivor Quality of Life

- **Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA).** ACS CAN advocates for the passage of legislation to facilitate access to palliative care and coordinated care management.

Diagnostic Reform

- **Verifying Accurate Leading-edge IVCT Development (VALID) Act.** ACS CAN advocates for passage of legislation that supports the modernization and harmonization of diagnostic test oversight.

Tobacco Control

- **Legislative and regulatory policies to reduce death and disease caused by commercial tobacco.** ACS CAN's advocacy includes finalizing the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) proposed rule to ban menthol in cigarettes and flavors in cigars. We continue working with our tobacco control partners to maintain and grow support for the FDA's regulation to prohibit menthol and other flavorings.
- **FDA's issuance of marketing denial orders for menthol-flavored e-cigarettes.** ACS CAN is supporting the FDA's regulation of menthol-flavored e-cigarettes through judicial advocacy.

Emerging Priorities

Childhood Cancer

- **Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act.** ACS CAN advocates for continued implementation and funding of the Childhood Cancer STAR Act to promote the development of new, safer therapies for children with cancer. Our appropriations request includes \$30 million for the Childhood Cancer STAR Act and \$50 million for the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative.

Patient Navigation

- **Patient Navigation for People with Cancer.** ACS CAN advocates for legislation and policies to increase access to patient navigation for people with cancer, prioritizing policies that create sustainable funding to ensure access to patient navigation services across the cancer continuum.

Firefighters and Cancer Risk

- **Cancer Risk Reduction for Firefighters.** ACS CAN advocates for legislation that provides critical patient support services to improve the quality of life for firefighters living with cancer and increases access to care. ACS CAN advocates for the passage of Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances (PFAS) legislation, which would fund research on the effect of PFAS on the protective gear and firefighting foam used by firefighters. ACS CAN continues to research scientific evidence that shows the nexus between firefighters and cancer.

Veterans' Health Care

- **Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.** ACS CAN advocates for expanding health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

Health Equity

- **Increased funding for the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities.** ACS CAN supports reducing disparities in the use of recommended preventive services targeting three leading causes of death in the United States—cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.
- **Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act of 2019 Report.** ACS CAN will advocate for Congress to urge the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to revisit the Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act of 2019 report, with respect to promoting diverse participation in cancer clinical trials and addressing fully the request for insight into either implementation challenges for current federal activities or recommendations for additional activities and policy changes related to clinical trial diversity.

Caregiving

- **Family Caregivers.** ACS CAN supports legislation recognizing and supporting family caregivers by promoting greater adoption of person- and family-centered care in all health care and long-term service and support settings. We support policies that give improved awareness of and outreach to family caregivers and inclusion of family caregivers in the care team. We advocate for services that support family caregivers through financial and employment protections, data, research, and best practices.

Indian Health Services

- **Increased Funding for Indian Health Services.** ACS CAN advocates for this and other legislative opportunities to reduce health disparities for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Indigenous communities.

For more information, contact Tammy Boyd, VP, Federal Advocacy & Strategic Alliances at tammy.boyd@cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) makes cancer a top priority for policymakers at every level of government. ACS CAN engages volunteers across the country to make their voices heard to ensure that our cities, our states and our nation adopt evidence-based public policies that improve the lives of people with cancer and their families. We believe everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. Since 2001, as the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN has successfully advocated for billions of dollars in cancer research funding, expanded access to quality affordable health care, and advanced proven tobacco control measures. We stand with our volunteers, working to change public policy to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Join the fight by visiting www.fightcancer.org