

2026 ACS CAN Federal Priorities



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) advocates for evidence-based policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. As the American Cancer Society's advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN engages advocates across the nation, and in every Congressional district, to make their voices heard to advance legislation and regulatory solutions to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

Priority National Campaigns

Investing in Cancer Research and Prevention: Support robust funding and maximized reach for cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H), and cancer screening and prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Advancing Clinical Trial Access: Pass the Clinical Trial Modernization Act (CTMA, H.R.3521) to reduce barriers to trial enrollment for those with cancer.

Defending Tobacco Control: Support tobacco prevention and cessation programs and policies to reduce death and disease caused by commercial tobacco.

Targeted Legislative Campaigns

Protecting Access to Affordable, Comprehensive Health Coverage: Support legislative and regulatory policies that promote protections and affordability in health insurance, curtail the availability of non-comprehensive options, and increase access to patient navigation services.

Combatting Childhood Cancer: Strengthen federal programs to advance research, improve care, and reduce barriers for pediatric cancer patients, including funding for the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative and Childhood Cancer STAR Act.

Improving Rural Access: Support for increased screening and early detection services, expanded clinical trial research infrastructure, and other efforts to improve access to cancer care in rural areas.

Ending Drug Shortages: Support policies to prevent shortages and ensure a stable supply of critical drugs, including pediatric drugs.

Improving Palliative Care: Pass the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA, H.R.4425/S.2287) to facilitate access to palliative care and coordinated care management. Support NIH funding for a palliative care consortium.

Promoting Screening for Breast and Cervical Cancer: Pass the SCREENS for Cancer Act (H.R.2381/S.1866), which reauthorizes the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP). Pass the EARLY Act Reauthorization (H.R. 4541 / S. 2339), which reauthorizes programs and services that address the unique needs of young women who have breast cancer or who are at risk for breast cancer.

Reducing Cancer Disparities: Support policies that eliminate barriers to cancer care for all communities that experience a higher burden of cancer:

- Pass the Women and Lung Cancer Research and Preventive Services Act (H.R.2319/S.1157) to assess the current research landscape, evaluate women's access to preventive services, and support public awareness campaigns.
- Pass the Prostate-Specific Antigen Screening for High-risk Insured Men Act (PSA for HIM, H.R.1300/S.297) to remove cost-sharing of PSA testing for those at the highest risk of being diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Removing Treatment Barriers: Pass the Safe Step Act (H.R.5509/S.2903) to provide an exception process for any medication step-therapy protocol in commercial insurance plans.

Fast Facts

- **In 2026:**
 - **2.1 million new cancer cases** estimated
 - **626,000 cancer deaths** estimated
 - **1,700 cancer deaths per day** estimated
- **Cancer is the nation's #2 killer**
- **18.6 million cancer survivors** in the U.S.
- From 1991 to 2021, the **cancer death rate decreased by 33%**, with **4.1 million fewer cancer deaths**
- **2 out of 3 patients live 5 years longer after diagnosis** compared to 40 years ago (just 1 out of 2)
- The **lifetime risk** of developing cancer in the U.S. is **2 out of 5 people**

