

2026 Mississippi Legislative Session Summary

Victory in the fight against cancer requires bold new public policies that promote cancer prevention, early detection of cancer, and expand access to quality, affordable health care. Lawmakers make many decisions that impact the lives of Mississippi residents impacted by cancer and their leadership is vital to defeating this disease.

In 2026 the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) worked with the Mississippi Legislature on legislative efforts that provide affordable, adequate access to health insurance including Medicaid, ensure adequate funding for lifesaving cancer screening and prevention programs, and enact prevention policies to protect kids from tobacco products and help support those who are trying to quit.

Ensuring Access to Quality Care

- **Biomarker Testing:** Legislation to improve access to comprehensive biomarker testing was passed and signed by the Governor. Biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine which includes targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients, but insurance coverage for biomarker testing is failing to keep pace with innovations and advances in treatment. The law will go into effect July 1, 2026.
- **Medicaid Expansion:** ACS CAN continues to advocate for legislation to close the health insurance coverage gap for over 200,000 hardworking Mississippians. Mississippi remains one of just 10 states that has not increased access to affordable health insurance through Medicaid. Multiple bills were introduced this legislative session, but no action was taken.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

- ACS CAN worked to maintain funding of \$250,000 for the **Mississippi Breast and Cervical Cancer Program**, the state breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment program for low-income uninsured and underinsured women administered by the Mississippi State Department of Health.

Reducing the Toll of Tobacco

- ACS CAN worked to maintain funding for fact-based, statewide **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Programs** at \$8.65 million.

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ACS CAN is making cancer a top priority for public officials and candidates at the federal, state, and local levels. ACS CAN empowers advocates across the country to make their voices heard and influence evidence-based public policy change as well as legislative and regulatory solutions that will reduce the cancer burden. As the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN is critical to the fight for a world without cancer. For more information, please visit www.fightcancer.org.

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