

2026 New York City Cancer Action Day Legislative Requests

1) Expand Paid Time Off For Cancer Screening:

The availability of paid leave from work for cancer screenings alleviates a significant barrier that will increase the rate of cancers detected at an early stage, when they can be more easily treated. Unfortunately, not all New Yorkers have equal access to paid time off from work for cancer screening.

Intro 434-2026 will require all private employers with a staff of five or more to grant employees paid time off—up to five hours annually—for preventative medical care, including doctor-recommend screening, ensuring that fear of wage or job loss does not serve as a barrier to workers' ability to prevent, detect and ultimately survive cancer. **Will you co-sponsor Intro 434-2026?**

2) Ending the Sale of Menthol Cigarettes

Smoking remains the number one cause of preventable death and disease in New York City. Menthol cigarettes are the most popular type of cigarette with surveys showing that half of youth (ages 12-17) who had ever tried smoking started with menthol cigarettes, and 42.3% of high school students who smoke reported using menthol cigarettes in 2023.

Intro 0609-2026 will end the sale of menthol cigarettes by the more than 4,000 licensed cigarette dealers in New York City. Furthermore, this legislation will reform how our tobacco laws are enforced by specifying in the law for the first time that it is not illegal to purchase, use or possess these products. **Will you co-sponsor Intro 0609-2026?**

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.

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