

2026 Mississippi Legislative Priorities

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 Mississippians impacted by cancer and their leadership is vital to defeating this disease.

In 2026 the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) will work 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. We will be making the following fact-based policies a priority and ask for your support:

Ensuring Access to Quality Care

- **Medicaid Coverage:** ACS CAN will advocate for Medicaid expansion up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level providing low-income individuals and families access to comprehensive health insurance coverage. Closing the coverage gap would ensure more Mississippians have access to potentially lifesaving cancer screenings and care. ACS CAN will also work to ensure current Medicaid enrollees have adequate access and coverage and will oppose proposals that create barriers or reduce access to care for cancer patients, survivors, and those who could be diagnosed with cancer.
- **Access to Biomarker Testing:** ACS CAN will advocate for improved coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing. 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.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

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

Reducing the Toll of Tobacco

- **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding:** ACS CAN will work to maintain funding for fact-based, statewide tobacco prevention and cessation programs at \$8.7 million.

For more information, contact: Kimberly Hughes, Mississippi Government Relations Director ACS CAN
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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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