

2026 Louisiana 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 Louisiana 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 Louisiana Legislature on legislative and regulatory 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 Defense:** The preservation of eligibility, coverage, and access to Medicaid remains critically important for many low-income state residents who depend on the program for cancer and chronic disease prevention, as well as early detection, diagnostic, and treatment services. ACS CAN will work to ensure 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.
- **Reduce Patient Medical Debt:** ACS CAN will advocate for policies that reduce the impact of incurred medical debt on individuals and families.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

- **Breast and Cervical Cancer:** ACS CAN will advocate to maintain funding of \$700,000 for the Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program, the state breast and cervical cancer screening program for low-income uninsured and underinsured women administered by the LSU Health Sciences Center.
- **Prostate Cancer:** ACS CAN will advocate for policies that improve prostate cancer screening rates and reduce disparities. This includes policies that would give men at high-risk for prostate cancer improved access to prostate cancer screening by requiring health insurance coverage for evidence-based prostate cancer preventive care and screenings, without cost sharing.

Reducing the Toll of Tobacco

- **Smoke-free Air:** ACS CAN will continue to work to pass policies to eliminate smoking in bars and casinos in municipalities around the state. In 2006, the state legislature took the first step to reduce secondhand smoke exposure by eliminating smoking in restaurants and most non-hospitality workplaces. However, the legislature decided to exempt bars and gaming facilities. We can protect the health of ALL workers, by closing the policy gaps left in 2006. Currently, over 40 municipalities have already implemented their own comprehensive smoke-free laws. Comprehensive smoke-free policies protect everyone's right to breathe clean air in all workplaces whether they work or visit a restaurant, bar, or gaming establishment.

Cancer Research Funding

- **State Cancer Registries:** ACS CAN will work to protect state funding of \$500,000 for the Louisiana Tumor Registry, which provides the data-driven foundation for the state cancer control efforts.

Local Control

- ACS CAN supports the authority of local governments to pass local policies that go beyond state laws to help families be healthy, safe and secure. Local policymaking allows innovation and creative problem solving that builds on local strengths and addresses local needs. ACS CAN works at the local, state and federal levels to ensure everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent, fight and survive cancer. ACS CAN will oppose legislation that restricts the freedom of local leaders to best serve your shared constituents.

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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.