



2023

Nebraska Cancer Action Day Training



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Who we are



- What to Expect on Event Day
- Issue Overview
- Hook, Line, and Sinker

AGENDA

What to expect on event day:

1 **Registration, breakfast, kick-off, additional event preparation 8:30 – 9:45 AM (Plan to arrive by 8:15 AM)**

Check-in at the Scottish Rite Ballroom (332 Centennial Mall S), where you'll receive your folder, meet with other advocates in your meeting group, and start the day with a quick prep session.

2 **Head over to the capitol – 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

We'll head over to the capitol for meetings with senators and staff members. Meeting schedules will be in your folder. We may also have additional engagement activities while you're in the capitol.

3 **Lunch and wrap up – 12:00 – 1:30pm**

We'll head back to the Scottish Rite Ballroom for lunch and to wrap up the day. Senators and their staff members have been invited to join us for lunch.

What to expect on event day:

4 **Legislator Meetings**

Some meetings may be scheduled in the senator's office. If a meeting isn't scheduled for their office we will attempt to pull senators off the floor and meet in the Rotunda. Our luncheon may also be an opportunity to connect with your senator.

5 **Report Back**

After your meetings, please be sure to input notes about your meeting in our legislator meeting feedback form.

6 **Celebrate**

Enjoy time with your fellow advocates and celebrate the impact you made today!

Issue Overview

1 Improving Access to Palliative Care in Nebraska

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness that carries a high risk of mortality or negatively impacts quality of life. This type of care addresses the symptoms and stress of a serious illness, including pain. Palliative care is a team-based approach to care, providing essential support at any age and stage of a serious illness. The goal of palliative care is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the patient's family or care partner. The impact of quality palliative care is improved symptom management, patient and family satisfaction, and cost savings.

Summary of LB 345 introduced by Senator Armendariz:

This legislation would insert a new definition of palliative care into state statute. The newly created definition would define:

- What palliative care is.
- Who is eligible for palliative care.
- Where it can be provided.

This legislation has been advanced out of the HHS committee and will soon head to the floor of the legislature for debate and possible passage.

Why?

- While Nebraska offers some palliative care, there are significant gaps in access. There also continues to be significant misconceptions among both patients and providers about what palliative care is and who can access it.

ASK #1: Will you support LB 345 to improve quality of life for Nebraskans living with serious illness?

HHS Committee Members

Please thank these members for advancing LB 345 out of the Health and Human Services Committee if you have any meetings with any of the following senators.

- Sen. Ben Hansen, Chairperson
- Sen. Beau Ballard
- Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh
- Sen. Jen Day
- Sen. Brian Hardin
- Sen. Merv Riepe
- Sen. Lynne Walz

Please ask for support of LB 345 to all other senators not on the HHS Committee.

Issue Overview

2 Support Investments To Reduce Tobacco Use In Nebraska

The Tobacco Free Nebraska is the state's comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program. The goals of the program are to help Nebraskans quit tobacco, eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, and protect our youth by keeping them from using tobacco.

Summary of LB 539

The bill appropriates the initial JUUL NE settlement payment to the Tobacco Free Nebraska Program. The first payments of \$1,082,146 will be deposited into the health cash fund. LB 539 will re-direct these payments to the Tobacco Free Nebraska program for Fiscal Years 23-24 and 24-25.

Why?

- 3,876 Nebraskans called the Quitline in 2022 to receive the support they needed to quit tobacco use. The Nebraska Tobacco Quitline provides free access to counseling and support services.
- The program runs advertisements through TV, radio, social media and other platforms to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use.
- Additional benefits of the program include allocation of Community grants (almost \$1.4 million), data collection (Adult Tobacco Survey, Youth Tobacco Survey and Behavior Risk Factor Survey, and tobacco retail store assessments).

ASK #2: Will you support legislation (LB 539) that increases funding for the Tobacco Free Nebraska program through utilization of JUUL settlement funds?

Appropriations Committee Members

Here are members of the Appropriations Committee who will consider advancing LB 539 to the floor of the legislature for consideration. Committee hearing on this legislation will be March 24.

- Sen. Robert Clements, Chairperson
- Sen. Christy Armendariz
- Sen. Myron Dorn
- Sen. Robert Dover
- Sen. Steve Erdman
- Sen. Loren Lippincott
- Sen. Mike McDonnell
- Sen. Tony Vargas (bill sponsor)
- Sen. Anna Wishart

Please ask for support of LB 539 in all of your meetings even if your senator isn't on the Appropriations Committee.

Issue Overview

3 Support Impactful Cancer Research, Prevention and Patient Support Programs in Nebraska

Summary of LB 802 (Pediatric Cancer Research)

This bill will increase funding from \$1.8 million to \$5 million for expanded pediatric cancer research. LB 802 was introduced by Senators Vargas and Conrad and will have a hearing in front of the Appropriations Committee on March 3.

Summary of LB 657 (Cancer Prevention and Patient Support)

This bill appropriates \$500,000 to the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska for the University of Nebraska Medical Center to contract with an organization located in Nebraska (Nebraska Cancer Coalition) to provide comprehensive cancer support and education to providers and patients across the state. LB 657 was heard in the Health and Human Services Committee on February 23 and a vote is pending.

Why?

- The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports laws and policies that increase funding for cancer research, prevention, and patient support programs to improve the quality of life for children and adults diagnosed with cancer throughout the state of Nebraska.
- Our mission is to end cancer as we know it, for everyone, through advocacy.
- ACS CAN will continue to prioritize policies that help Nebraskans prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer; robust funding for cancer research, education and prevention programs are imperative to meeting that mission.

ASK #3: Will you support legislation (LB 802 and LB 657) that increases funding for cancer research, prevention, and patient support programs in Nebraska?

Appropriations Committee Members

Here are members of the Appropriations Committee who will consider advancing LB 802 to the floor of the legislature for consideration. Committee hearing on this legislation will be March 3.

- Sen. Robert Clements, Chairperson
- Sen. Christy Armendariz
- Sen. Myron Dorn
- Sen. Robert Dover
- Sen. Steve Erdman
- Sen. Loren Lippincott
- Sen. Mike McDonnell
- Sen. Tony Vargas (bill sponsor)
- Sen. Anna Wishart

Please ask for support of LB 802 in all of your meetings even if your senator isn't on the Appropriations Committee.

HHS Committee Members

Here are members of the Health and Human Services Committee who will consider advancing LB 657 to the floor of the legislature for consideration. Committee hearing on this legislation was February 23.

- Sen. Ben Hansen, Chairperson
- Sen. Beau Ballard
- Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh
- Sen. Jen Day
- Sen. Brian Hardin
- Sen. Merv Riepe
- Sen. Lynne Walz

Please ask for support of LB 657 in all of your meetings even if your senator isn't on the HHS Committee.

Hook, Line, & Sinker

Your **HOOK**(name, hometown, occupation, grade/age)

Introduce yourself. Decision makers want to hear from their local community, so sharing your name, hometown and other relevant information will help capture their attention.

Example: My name is Matt Prokop, I live in Lincoln and have been an ACS CAN advocate for 11 years. I'm here today to meet with you about some important policies that will help Nebraskans prevent, find, treat and survive cancer.

Hook, Line, & Sinker

Your **LINE** (the issues)

This is where you get to share your personal story/experience/opinion. Your story is powerful, your experiences matter, and your voice makes a difference. Choose to apply your story to the LINE that applies best.

If your story doesn't align to the asks, you can say:

- I know what it's like to hear the words "you have cancer" or
- I know the impact that a cancer diagnosis can have on a family. Let me tell you about my friend/relative/coworker.....

Hook, Line, & Sinker

Your **SINKER** (the ask)

This is where we make our big ask! Say it with confidence and certainty. Allow decision maker to respond. Whether they are in support or not, LISTEN to their answer and learn what matters most to them about these issues. Be respectful, and thank them for their time.

ASK #1: Will you support LB 345 to improve quality of life for Nebraskans living with serious illness?

ASK #2: Will you support legislation (LB 539) that increases funding for the Tobacco Free Nebraska program through utilization of JUUL settlement funds?

ASK #3: Will you support legislation (LB 802 and LB 657) that increases funding for cancer research, prevention, and patient support programs in Nebraska?

Palliative Care Example

- Hook:** Hi Senator Bostar, my name is Matt Prokop. I am your constituent. I volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and appreciate you taking time to discuss LB 345 which would improve access to palliative care for Nebraskans with serious illnesses.
- Line:** My Grandmother is one of the thousands of Nebraskans diagnosed each year who battle against cancer. In her battle with cancer she faces daily pain during her treatments. Palliative care which treats the whole person and not just the disease is something she would greatly benefit from in managing her pain. Prior to her diagnoses she was unaware of the impact of palliative care and how it could better her quality of life during her treatments. LB 345 would create a definition of palliative care so patients can understand that this type of care can be used during any stage of a chronic illness.
- Sinker:** Senator Bostar, improving quality of life for cancer patients through palliative care is an issue our volunteers will continue to advocate for and educate our lawmakers on. Will you support LB 345 to improve quality of life for Nebraskans living with serious illness?

Tobacco Control Funding Example

•**Hook:** Hi Senator Bostar, my name is Matt Prokop. I am your constituent. I volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and I care deeply about issues that can help us reduce tobacco use. I'm here to talk about LB 539, which would allocate \$1,082,146 of JUUL Settlement funds to the Tobacco Free Nebraska program.

•**Line:** My cousin is a 20 year smoker who started in her teenage years. She wanted to quit but never had the tools and resources to do. Now, unfortunately she has been diagnosed with lung cancer. My story represents what is happening to the thousands of Nebraskans every day that use tobacco products. We have an opportunity to prevent more Nebraskans from using tobacco products and gain access to resources that will help them quit through allocating the settlement funds to the Tobacco Free Nebraska program.

•**Sinker:** Senator Bostar, we need your help. You can make a difference in helping Nebraskans quit using tobacco and producing healthier outcomes. Will you support legislation (LB 539) that increases funding for the Tobacco Free Nebraska program through utilization of JUUL settlement funds?

Cancer Research and Prevention Funding Example

- **Hook:** Hi Senator Bostar, my name is Matt Prokop. I am your constituent. I volunteer for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and appreciate you taking time to discuss policies that would increase funding for cancer research, prevention, and patient support programs to improve the quality of life for children and adults diagnosed with cancer throughout the state of Nebraska.
- **Line:** As an ACS CAN advocate, I support their mission is to end cancer as we know it, for everyone, through advocacy. The Nebraska Legislature has several opportunities that increase funding for cancer research, prevention, provider collaborations and patient support programs. LB 802 increases funding from \$1.8 million to \$5 million for expanded pediatric cancer research. LB 657 appropriates \$500,000 from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund for FY23-24 for the Nebraska Cancer Coalition (NC2) for comprehensive cancer support and education.
- **Sinker:** Senator Bostar will you support legislation (LB 802 and LB 657) that increases funding for cancer research, prevention, and patient support programs in Nebraska?

Senator Meeting Example



Jeff Soukup
Nebraska Ambassador Constituent Team Lead Volunteer

Next Steps:

1 **Lawmaker Meetings**

I will be emailing you initial meeting schedules early next week.

2 **Get Familiar with our "Asks"**

Review this power point and talking points leading up to CAD.

I will send out a link with all materials that will be in your folders to review prior to the event.

3 **Get Ready!**

Make sure you are dress comfortably!

Attire is business casual, but tennis shoes are more than okay! We will have ACS CAN logo long sleeve t-shirts for you to wear when you're in the capitol.

Reach out with any questions, concerns, or last minute cancellations.

Questions?



Thank You!