

2022 Florida Legislative Priorities & Session Outcomes



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) works to achieve our advocacy goals by using a focused legislative agenda. ACS CAN develops an agenda that defines the annual priority initiatives, appropriations requests, and other issues that support our overall mission to save lives and diminish suffering caused from cancer. The following is a synopsis of the 2022 Legislative Session’s cancer-related policy outcomes and appropriations in Florida.

2022 TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN FLORIDA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE & POSITION	LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME	IMPACT
<p>BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING</p> <p>The Mary Brogan Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides lifesaving cancer screenings for medically underserved women between the ages of 50 and 64 with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. During the 2022 Legislative Session, ACS CAN advocated to increase state funding for this program to \$3 million.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, House and Senate budget negotiators did not increase funding for the program, which was maintained at \$1.83 million in recurring revenue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintaining recurring dollars to enhance this screening program for medically underserved women means that Florida is ensuring that funding will be included in next year’s base budget. ➤ With current funding levels, the program is only able to serve approximately 8.5% of the eligible population.
<p>BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH</p> <p>It is vital that Florida supports measures that will increase the state’s capacity for research and treatment, especially those measures that generate a substantial investment in the state’s research infrastructure. For FY 2022-23, we requested that the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program be maintained at \$10 million for each program.</p>	<p>The Bankhead-Coley program was funded at \$10 million and the King program received \$7.85 million; the reduction in the King program funding is due to the FY 21-22 budgeted funds not being exhausted and being rolled over to the FY 22-23 budget. Additionally, \$3 million was provided for pediatric cancer research through the statutory Live Like Bella Initiative.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In addition to the funding provided for biomedical research grant programs, several other research institutions received substantial legislative appropriations. Notably, recurring funding for the Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute (NCI) Centers Program was increased to \$100 million. The program will be renamed the “Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program.”
<p>TOBACCO PREVENTION & EDUCATION</p> <p>ACS CAN supports the continued, full implementation of Article X, Section 27 of the Florida Constitution. Funding allocated for the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program should be adjusted for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index and should be allocated based on the CDC’s <i>Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs</i>.</p>	<p>The Legislature approved more than \$77.3 million in funding for the Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Prevention and Education Program. The dollars distributed within the larger program are generally consistent with the CDC’s <i>Best Practices</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Total program funding will increase by nearly \$3.4 million over the current year budget. ➤ Proviso language in the budget directs Tobacco Free Florida to use program funding in the Health Communications Interventions category for strategies targeting Florida’s youth, including information about the consequences of tobacco use including e-cigarette use. ➤ New proviso language was also added to specify that \$2.5 million of the appropriation be used for “Health Communications Interventions – Pregnant Women”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE & POSITION	LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME	IMPACT
<p>TOBACCO PREEMPTION</p> <p>ACS CAN works at the local, state and federal levels, thus it supports each level of government’s ability to implement policies to protect the public’s health. The right of local governments to pass public health policies must be preserved to continue future advocacy efforts to reduce suffering and death from cancer.</p>	<p>HB 105 (Regulation of Smoking by Counties and Municipalities) passed after a years-long effort to partially repeal the existing state preemption on outdoor smoking. As originally filed, the bill would have allowed counties and cities to restrict smoking on beaches and parks within their jurisdictions. The bills were amended during the session to carve out unfiltered cigars.</p>	<p>➤ Counties and cities in Florida will now be able to proactively ban smoking of tobacco products, excluding unfiltered cigars, on the public beaches and parks within their jurisdictions.</p>

APPROPRIATIONS

The \$112.1 billion budget for FY 2022-23 adopted during the 2023 Legislative Session includes approximately \$245.8 million for the fight against cancer. This constitutes an increase of nearly \$60 million in associated funding from the prior budget year.

In total, cancer-related funding from the legislature includes:

Mary Brogan Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program	\$ 1,838,235
Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Prevention and Education	\$ 77,329,334
Biomedical Research	
James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program	\$ 7,850,000
William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program	\$ 10,000,000
Pediatric Cancer Research (Live Like Bella Initiative)	\$ 3,000,000
Statewide Brain Tumor Registry Program - McKnight Brain Institute	\$ 500,000 (earmarked from the Bankhead-Coley program funding)
Endowed Cancer Research Chair	
Mayo Clinic Cancer Center of Jacksonville	\$ 6,000,000
Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute Centers Program (to be renamed the Casey Desantis Cancer Research Program)	\$ 100,000,000
Live Like Bella Childhood Cancer Foundation	\$ 1,000,000
Minority Health Initiatives	\$ 14,560,233
La Liga - League Against Cancer	\$ 1,150,000
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center - Firefighters Cancer Research	\$ 2,000,000
Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute – Education	\$ 20,576,930
TOTAL CANCER-RELATED ISSUES AND ACS CAN PRIORITIES	\$ 245,804,732

Please note – The Governor has not yet signed the 2022-23 Budget. All items above are subject to veto.