

2026 Michigan 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 Michiganders 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 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.
- **Prescription Drug Access:** ACS CAN will advocate for legislation that ensures prior authorization and step therapy requirements for prescription drugs are clear, efficient and patient-friendly while also allowing for exceptions when appropriate.
- **Prescription Drug Affordability:** ACS CAN supports legislation that restricts the use of so-called copay accumulator adjustments in health insurance plans. We will advocate for policies that ensure third party prescription drug copay assistance is counted toward patients' out-of-pocket cost obligations.
- **Reduce Patient Medical Debt:** ACS CAN will advocate for policies that prevent the occurrence of medical debt and 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 for Michigan's breast and cervical cancer screening programs for low-income uninsured and underinsured women.
- **Lung Cancer:** ACS CAN advocates for all insurance plans, including traditional Medicaid, to provide a comprehensive benefit for lung cancer screening including all follow-up testing according to recommended guidelines, without enrollee cost sharing or other barriers.

Reducing the Toll of Tobacco

- **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding:** ACS CAN will work to increase funding for fact-based, statewide tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

In Michigan:

- 13.6% of adults smoke cigarettes.
 - 16.5% of high school students use tobacco products, including 2.1% who smoke cigarettes, 15.4% who use e-cigarettes, 2.6% who use smokeless tobacco and 5.1% who use cigars.
 - **31.9% of cancer deaths are caused by smoking.**
- **Smoke-free Air:** ACS CAN will work to protect Michigan’s smoke-free air law by keeping a proposed cigar lounge out of the Detroit Airport.

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.

For more information, contact: Molly Medenblik, Michigan 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.