

2024 Florida 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 Floridians impacted by cancer and their leadership is vital to defeating this disease. During the 2024 Legislative Session, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) will work with the Florida Legislature on initiatives to provide affordable, adequate access to health insurance including Medicaid, comprehensive coverage for needed services like biomarker testing, as well as ensure adequate funding for cancer research, lifesaving cancer screening programs, and comprehensive tobacco education and prevention. We will be making the following fact-based policies a priority and ask for your support:

Ensuring Access to Quality Care

- **Access to Biomarker Testing:** ACS CAN will advocate for improved coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing. Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine, which uses information about a person's own genes or proteins to prevent, diagnose or treat diseases like cancer. 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 advancements in treatment.
- **Affordable, Adequate Health Insurance:** ACS CAN will advocate for policies that ensure access to quality, affordable and comprehensive health care coverage, including Medicaid, and will support efforts to curb the availability of inadequate health plans.

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

- **Breast and Cervical Cancer:** ACS CAN will advocate to increase state funding to \$3 million for the Mary Brogan Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, Florida's breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment program for low-income uninsured and underinsured women administered by the Florida Department of Health.

Cancer Research Funding

- **Research Appropriations:** ACS CAN supports the state's continued investment in cancer and biomedical research grant programs, including the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program, and request that program grants continue to be awarded on a peer-reviewed, competitive basis. ACS CAN also supports the state's continued prioritization of cancer research and innovation through the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program and the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund.

Reducing the Toll of Tobacco

- **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding:** 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 approximately \$88 million for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and allocated based on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Best Practices. This program should be fully funded and permitted to incorporate education around e-cigarettes to address the youth e-cigarette epidemic and continue reductions in use for other tobacco products.

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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.