

## 2026 California 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 California 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 California 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

- **Medi-Cal Coverage:** The preservation of eligibility, coverage, and access to Medi-Cal remains critically important for many low-income California 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 Medi-Cal 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.
- **Affordable, Adequate Health Insurance:** ACS CAN will advocate for policies that ensure Californians have access to quality, affordable and comprehensive health insurance including Medi-Cal and will support efforts to curb the availability of inadequate health plans.
- **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.

### Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

- **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 Control:** ACS CAN will fight to protect and expand California's pioneering tobacco control policies by working to better enforce state and local laws ending the sale of flavored tobacco, protect state funding for tobacco control, oppose efforts to weaken state and local smoke-free laws and improve access to tobacco cessation.
- **Tobacco-free Pharmacies:** ACS CAN will work to end the sale of all tobacco products in pharmacies. As an important part of our healthcare infrastructure that people utilize for health information and medical needs, pharmacies would no longer be able to obtain a tobacco retailer license.

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## Cancer Research Funding

- **California Cancer Registry:** ACS CAN will work to protect funding for the California Cancer Registry which provides critical information for health researchers who utilize the data to address geographical and demographic factors that affect cancer risk, detection, and effective treatment.

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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/california](http://www.fightcancer.org/california).