

# TOGETHER, WE CAN DEFEAT CANCER!



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) was founded in 2001 as the nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society (ACS). Although they are separate organizations, the Society and ACS CAN have a shared vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone.

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## What is ACS CAN?

ACS CAN makes cancer a top priority for policymakers at every level of government. ACS CAN engages volunteers across the country to make their voices heard to ensure that our cities, our states and our nation adopt evidence-based policies that improve the lives of people with cancer and their families. As ACS's advocacy affiliate, We stand with our volunteers, working to change public policy to end cancer as we know it for everyone.

## Why ACS CAN?

Defeating cancer is as much a matter of public policy as scientific discovery. Lawmakers play a critical role in determining how much progress our country makes toward defeating cancer. ACS CAN gives a voice to those impacted by the disease as they encourage lawmakers at all levels of government to join the fight to make cancer a national priority.

ACS CAN's work has resulted in enormous progress through increased funding for cancer research and prevention programs, stronger tobacco control policies nationwide, and improved access to the full range of cancer care for people diagnosed with the disease and their families. By focusing national attention on the cancer fight, raising funds, educating voters, and rallying others to the join the fight, ACS CAN unites and empowers people with cancer and their families to help save lives.

## What does ACS CAN do?

ACS CAN's work helps advance ACS's mission to defeat cancer by helping to protect and increase public investment in groundbreaking medical research, and by improving access nationwide to the latest prevention and early detection measures, treatments, and follow-up care that are proven to save lives. Like ACS, ACS CAN follows the science when supporting evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

ACS CAN utilizes its expert lobbying, policy, grassroots, and communications capacity to amplify the voices of patients in support of laws and policies that save lives from cancer. And through Cancer Votes, ACS CAN's voter education program, ACS CAN is working to make sure candidates for public office are aware of the impact cancer has on the people they represent and why they should make the fight against the disease a priority once they're in office.

## What does ACS CAN not do?

ACS CAN does not endorse candidates or political parties, and it is not a political action committee (PAC). The organization does educate voters by serving as a trusted source of information about candidate positions on cancer related concerns and on key issue campaigns across the country that impact those affected by cancer. Like cancer itself, ACS CAN is nonpartisan.

## What issues does ACS CAN work on and why?

- **Cancer research funding** – A strong and sustained federal investment in cancer research funding will yield scientific breakthroughs that save lives.
- **Strong smoke-free laws and higher tobacco taxes** These measures are proven to reduce tobacco use, the largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the United States.
- **Lifesaving screening programs** – Programs that increase access to proven cancer screenings, especially among medically underserved populations, save lives and are good for the economy.
- **Access to quality, affordable health care** – More than 300,000 people in the United States die from cancer each year because they lack access to affordable, adequate, quality care and treatment, and millions of others are forced to skip lifesaving care or spend their savings to pay for it.

## What's the difference between the American Cancer Society and ACS CAN?

The Society and ACS CAN play different, but equally important, roles in working to end cancer, as we know it, for everyone.

### American Cancer Society

Improves the lives of people with cancer and their families as the only organization combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.

Providing multiple support programs for people with cancer and their caregivers, including a home away from home at Hope Lodge® communities when they need to travel for treatment and free access to cancer information via 24/7 helpline.

Largest source of private, not-for-profit cancer research funds in the US, including grants made to 50 future Nobel Prize winners.

Educates the public about cancer treatment, prevention, and screening tests.

### ACS CAN

The leading patient advocacy organization dedicated to passing evidence-based laws that help fight cancer and ensure everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, treat and survive cancer.

Advocates for high-quality, affordable health care for everyone.

Organized in all 50 states and 435 congressional districts to conduct high-impact federal, state, and local issue campaigns.

Advocates for strong and sustained federal investments in cancer research funding that yield scientific breakthroughs that save lives.

Advocates for strong and sustained federal and state government investment in cancer treatment, prevention, and screening tests.

For more information on ACS CAN, please visit [www.fightcancer.org](http://www.fightcancer.org).