

# 2014 Florida Legislative Priorities & Session Outcomes



*The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), Florida Division, 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 2014 Session's cancer-related policy outcomes and appropriations in Florida.*

## 2014 TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN FLORIDA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE & POSITION	2014 LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME	IMPACT
<p><b>BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING</b></p> <p>The Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides lifesaving cancer screenings for medically underserved women between the ages of 50 and 64 who have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level. For 2014, ACS CAN asks that the state fund the program at a level equal to one-half of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's (CDC's) current program investment in Florida (approximately \$2.4 million) – building upon two consecutive years of additional program funding.</p>	<p>House and Senate budget negotiators originally allocated only \$931,017 to the program for the coming budget year. On the last day of budget conference, Speaker of the House, Will Weatherford, came through again with an additional \$868,983, bringing total funding for the Mary Brogan program to \$1,800,000; the most state funding ever provided in the program's history.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This year's appropriation reflects a <b>\$263,527</b> increase over last year's budget.</li> <li>➤ Florida is continuing to invest recurring dollars to enhance this screening program for medically underserved women, meaning next year's budget will already include funding for the program.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 13,700 women, ages 50 to 64, were screened with the dollars allocated during the last budget year. More funding for the program means even more lifesaving cancer screenings for these high-risk women.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH</b></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 Fiscal Year 2014-15, we ask that both the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program are funded at \$25 million apiece and that, as prescribed by law, program funding allocations are determined on a peer-reviewed, competitive grant basis.</p>	<p>Funding for Florida's biomedical research programs, the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program and the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program, came in at <b>\$10 million</b> each for the upcoming year for a total of <b>\$20 million</b>. In addition, a number of institutions engaged in cancer research in Florida received substantial legislative appropriations and the legislature passed a proposal to help more Florida based cancer centers become certified by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The increases achieved for both the King and Bankhead-Coley programs during the last Legislative Session were maintained.</li> <li>➤ There was a total of <b>\$35.3 million</b> allocated specifically for biomedical research with an additional <b>\$60 million</b> provided to Florida based cancer centers to help either preserve or attain their NCI designation. In sum, a total of <b>\$95.3 million</b> was invested in cancer treatment and research.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TOBACCO PREVENTION &amp; EDUCATION</b></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 approximately \$66.6 million for Fiscal Year 2014-15 and should be allocated based on the CDC's Best Practices.</p>	<p>The Legislature approved <b>\$66,613,730</b> in funding for the Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Prevention and Education Program. The dollars distributed within the larger program were generally consistent with the CDC's Guidelines and Best Practices for tobacco control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ That amount constitutes a <b>\$972,961</b> increase over last year's budget.</li> <li>➤ Language included in the budget requires that all contracts funded through the program include performance measures and outcomes that are consistent with the CDC's Best Practices.</li> <li>➤ Youth smoking rates in Florida are among the lowest in the nation with high school rates dropping to 8.6% this year.</li> </ul>

## OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ON LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE & POSITION	2014 LEGISLATIVE OUTCOME	IMPACT
<b>E-Cigarettes</b>	<u>Nicotine Dispensing Devices</u> : Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (R - Ft. Myers) and Representative Frank Artiles (R- Miami) sponsored Senate Bill 224 which extends the current prohibitions related to tobacco products for persons under the age of 18 to prohibit the sale, gifting, possession or use of nicotine dispensing devices, including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), to minors. After it was amended on the House floor, the bill passed both chambers unanimously.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The House version of the bill, HB 169, would have stripped local governments of their authority to regulate the sale and marketing of both e-cigarettes and tobacco products in their communities, a dangerous tactic known as “preemption”.</li> <li>➤ The preemption language was amended out of the bill on the House floor, preserving each community’s right to adopt stronger protective measures to safeguard their kids from a lifelong addiction to nicotine.</li> </ul>
<b>CANCER CARE AND RESEARCH</b> Actively support measures that will increase Florida’s capacity for research and treatment, including clinical trials, especially measures that generate a substantial state investment in Florida’s research infrastructure.	<u>Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute Centers Program</u> : Included in the budget this year was an initiative originally proposed by Governor Rick Scott. The Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute Centers Program, housed within the Department of Health, will work to enhance the quality and competitiveness of cancer care in the state, further a statewide biomedical research strategy responsive to the health needs of Florida’s citizens and capitalize on the potential educational opportunities available to students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ NCI designation is recognized as a mark of high-quality research and patient care, and is linked to higher federal funding. Increasing the number of NCI designated centers in Florida will work to expand our infrastructure and enhance our capacity for both cancer research and treatment.</li> <li>➤ Florida has laid a solid foundation with our existing biomedical research programs. This next step provides a more multifaceted approach to help make a real impact on our state’s cancer incidence and mortality rates.</li> </ul>

## APPROPRIATIONS

The \$77.1 billion budget for FY 2014-15 adopted in advance of the Legislature’s adjournment included \$183 million for the fight against cancer. That amount constitutes a \$37 million increase in funding over Fiscal Year 2013-14. In total, cancer-related allocations include:

<b>Mary Brogan Breast &amp; Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program</b>	\$1,800,000
<b>Biomedical Research</b>	
James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program	\$10,000,000
William G. "Bill" Bankhead, Jr., and David Coley Cancer Research Program	\$11,726,038*
Statewide Brain Tumor Registry Program - McKnight Brain Institute	\$500,000
Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute	\$5,600,000
Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies	\$3,000,000
Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute of Florida	\$3,000,000
<b>Endowed Cancer Research Chair</b>	
Mayo Clinic Cancer Center of Jacksonville	\$2,000,000
<b>Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute Centers Program</b>	\$60,000,000
<b>Comprehensive Statewide Tobacco Prevention and Education</b>	\$66,613,730
<b>Minority Health Initiatives</b>	\$3,184,044
<b>La Liga - League Against Cancer</b>	\$25,000
<b>Rural Primary Care Residency Slots</b>	\$3,000,000
<b>H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute - Education</b>	\$12,576,930
<b>TOTAL CANCER-RELATED ISSUES AND ACS CAN PRIORITIES</b>	<b>\$183,025,742</b>

\*This amount includes \$1,726,038 in unexpended funds from the prior Fiscal Year that reverted and will be appropriated for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 for the same purpose.