



# 2015 Texas Legislative Priorities

## **Cancer Research, Prevention, and Early Detection**

- Secure full funding for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and ensure a future for CPRIT that enables Texas to remain a leader in cancer research.
- Maintain funding for the Texas Breast and Cervical Cancer Services (BCCS) program.
- Fully fund the Texas Cancer Registry's two-year budget.

## **Reducing the Toll of Tobacco**

- Increase funding for the state's tobacco prevention and cessation programs to expand the implementation of community-based programs that will help more smokers quit and keep more kids from starting.
- Increase the price of cigarettes by at least \$1.00 per pack, and proportional rates for other tobacco products to reduce rates of tobacco use especially among youth.
- Build momentum for comprehensive smoke-free workplace legislation that protects all workers in Texas from the dangers of secondhand smoke, and oppose legislation that would strip local authority to enact smoke-free protections.

## **Improving Quality of Life for Patients and Survivors**

- Create a Palliative/Supportive Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council and educational initiative to address barriers to person-centered palliative/supportive care during treatment from the beginning of diagnosis of serious diseases such as cancer.

## **Access to Health Care for Cancer Patients, Survivors, and their Families**

- Adopt a solution that will allow Texas to accept available federal health care dollars to close the Texas coverage gap.

## **Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Obesity Prevention**

- Increase weekly physical education requirements in schools and strengthen curriculum for physical education.
- Fully fund the Texas Department of Health and Human Services community-based obesity prevention programs.

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ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard.