



ILLINOIS



2017 State Public Policy Priorities

Victory in the fight against cancer requires bold new public policies that promote prevention and early detection of cancer, increase research, and expand access to quality, affordable health care. To this end, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in Illinois is working on the following legislative priorities in support of our mission to end cancer as a major health problem.

Ensure Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care

- **Breast and cervical cancer screening funding:** We will advocate for stable funding of the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program which provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings to low-income, uninsured women across the state and is administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- **Ensure cancer patients have access to the providers they need:** Access to a full range of health care providers is critical for cancer patients. That is why it is so critical that insurers offer robust networks of providers – including specialists – and for health plans to allow enrollees access to out-of-network services when medically appropriate.

Encourage Healthy Eating and Active Living to Reduce the Risk of Cancer

- **Support efforts to reduce the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages which are linked to weight gain, overweight and obesity:** ACS CAN is part of a coalition of organizations working to reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and raise revenue for obesity and chronic disease prevention through the passage of a penny per ounce excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in Illinois.
- **Increase physical education in schools:** Physical education in schools has been decreasing in recent years due to budgetary cut backs and competing academic demands. ACS CAN will work to reduce overweight and obesity among Illinois children by protecting and improving current physical education standards.

Support Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Strategies to Reduce Lung Cancer

- **Raising the minimum age of sale of all tobacco products to 21:** Use of tobacco by youth remains unacceptably high with new users starting every day. Restricting youth and young adult access to tobacco products can be a critical component to a comprehensive strategy to reduce initiation and lifelong addiction.
- **Protect the statewide smoke-free law:** ACS CAN will defend and promote the Smoke Free Illinois Act (as passed in 2007). It is essential that the Smoke Free Illinois Act be maintained in order to protect the health of all employees and patrons.
- **Protect funding for the Illinois Tobacco Quitline:** All tobacco users need access to a range of treatments to find the most effective cessation tools for them.

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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 national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard. For more information, visit acscan.org