



New Mexico



2013 State Legislative Priorities

Cancer has become one of the most preventable and increasingly curable life-threatening diseases – but only if we take the steps necessary to prevent it outright, detect it early, and improve access to care. To this end, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in New Mexico is working on the following legislative priorities in support of our mission to end cancer as a major health problem.

Ensuring Access to Quality Care and Implementation of 2010 Affordable Care Act

- Advocate for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including the adoption of a benchmark plan that includes the broad spectrum of benefits and services critical to preventing, diagnosing and treating cancer and participation in the Medicaid expansion that will provide approximately 145,000 low-income, working New Mexico residents access to health care coverage.
- Work with the legislature and governor to ensure that Affordable Care Act implementation works for cancer patients and cancer prevention.
- Ensure preventive services remain accessible and affordable for low-income and uninsured persons.
- Ensure continuity of prescription drug coverage to minimize out-of-pocket costs.
- Protect unimpeded access to crucial pain management medications for cancer patients.

Lung Cancer and Tobacco Control

- Eliminate the large discrepancy in taxation rates between cigarettes and non-cigarette tobacco products. The use of highly-addictive smokeless tobacco and flavored cigars is increasing significantly among New Mexico youth. Low taxation rates that favor smokeless tobacco and cheap cigars incentivize children to initiate tobacco use and make it harder for adults to quit. Allowing this inequity in taxation rates to continue costs the state \$7 million per year, not including increased medical costs.
- Protect funding for local service providers offering comprehensive Tobacco Use Prevention and Control program services following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention best practice recommendations.
- Protect against diversions of Tobacco Settlement funds to issues that are unrelated to tobacco use and chronic disease.
- Defend the comprehensive secondhand smoke protections in the statewide Dee Johnson Clean Indoor Air Act

Cancer Prevention, Treatment, and Survivorship

- Protect funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and other cancer-related chronic disease programs at the New Mexico Department of Health.
- Protect funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program through Medicaid.

For More Information, Contact: Sandra Adondakis, NM Government Relations Director

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network • Sandra.Adondakis@cancer.org • Ph. 505.262.6019 • www.acscan.org/newmexico

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.