



ACS CAN Priorities for the First 100 Days

The attached letter was delivered to Capitol Hill on January 16th, 2025. The letter details ACS CAN's priorities for the first 100 days of the 119th Congress.

The priorities include:

- Completing the FY25 Funding Bill and Increasing Cancer Research and Prevention Funding (NIH, NCI, ARPA-H, CDC)
- Extending the ACA Enhanced Tax Credits
- Protecting Medicaid
- Enacting Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Legislation (included in the December Health Care package)

Thank you for considering these priorities! Can we please meet during February recess to discuss them further?

Name:

Congressional District:

Email:

Phone number:



January 16, 2025

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), congratulations on your election to the 119th Congress! As the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN advocates for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. We engage our volunteers across the country and in every congressional district to make their voices heard by policymakers at every level of government.

On January 16, 2025, the American Cancer Society (ACS) released its annual Cancer Statistics for 2025 documenting the unacceptable and growing burden of cancer in our nation. **In 2025 alone, the projected number of new cancer diagnoses in the United States will top two million (5,600 each day) and will claim the lives of over 618,120 people.** While the cancer mortality rate in the U.S. decreased by 34% from 1991 to 2022, averting approximately 4.5 million deaths, the findings show increasing incidence for many cancer types, especially among women and younger adults. For example, incidence rates in women 50-64 years of age have surpassed those in men, and rates in women under 50 are now 82% higher than their male counterparts, up from 51% in 2002. .¹

Given the tremendous and growing cancer burden, we urge you to make cancer a top national priority by keeping cancer patients and survivors and those who are at risk of developing cancer at the core of every health policy decision. Specifically, we urge your support for the following key cancer-fighting policy priorities.

Investing in Cancer Research and Prevention

Sustained, robust federal investments in cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and prevention funding for cancer programs at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is crucial for preventing the onset of cancer and for saving lives and driving the cancer treatments and cures of tomorrow. Federal cancer research represents American government at its best—saving lives, driving innovation, strengthening our medical workforce, fueling economic activity across the nation, and enhancing our global competitiveness. Continued progress is essential to maintaining progress in the fight against cancer. ***We urge Congress to complete the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 spending bills before the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires on March 14th and include the highest possible increases for cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including the National Cancer Institute (NCI) cancer prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the FY25 spending bill.***

¹ American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 2025. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2025.



Innovation in Early Detection

Innovation in cancer screening and early detection has significant potential to reduce the cancer burden. In the 118th Congress, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Act (H.R. 2407)/the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (S. 2085) earned the bipartisan support of 320 Representatives and 65 Senators. The bill creates a pathway to ensure timely Medicare coverage of new, innovative multi-cancer screening tests, once FDA has approved and clinical benefit has been shown. This bill can greatly expand access to early detection. In June of 2024, the Ways and Means Committee unanimously passed H.R. 2407 and in December, legislation based on H.R. 2407/S. 2085 was included in the bipartisan, bicameral negotiated health care package. This legislation has the potential to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people with Medicare coverage and their families, especially since we know that the risk of developing cancer increases with age as do the odds of developing an invasive form of cancer. ***We urge enactment of Medicare Multi Cancer Screening legislation as soon as possible this year.***

Pharmacy Benefit Manger (PBM) Reform

PBM reform will provide critical changes that could impact what cancer patients ultimately pay for medications. New transparency requirements, limits on PBM funding sources, and the requirement that rebates be passed through to plan sponsors will help to make PBMs more accountable. ***We urge Congress to pass PBM reforms as soon as possible.***

Ensuring Access to Affordable, Quality Health Care

Every family should be able to afford health coverage, regardless of their zip code or income. Having affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage is a key determinant for surviving cancer. Research from the American Cancer Society shows that uninsured Americans are less likely to get screened for cancer and thus are more likely to have their cancer diagnosed at an advanced stage when survival is less likely and the cost of care more expensive.² Public policies that make health coverage more affordable are vital to ensuring people receive the cancer care they need.

Extending the Enhanced ACA Tax Credits. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) established state marketplaces where individuals could purchase comprehensive health insurance, and which provide tax credits for low- and moderate-income individuals to purchase this coverage. As part of the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021 and subsequently through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Congress extended these tax credits. Enhanced ACA tax credits have directly lowered premiums and made coverage possible for millions of low- and moderate-income individuals and families. These enhanced ACA tax credits contributed to a record 24 million Americans choosing

² Zhao, J., Han, X., Nogueira, L., Fedewa, S.A., Jemal, A., Halpern, M.T. and Yabroff, K.R. (2022), Health insurance status and cancer stage at diagnosis and survival in the United States. *CA A Cancer J Clin.* <https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.21732>.



to enroll in Marketplace coverage in 2024.³ Marketplace enrollment for 2025 is on track to exceed 2024 enrollment.⁴ The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), on behalf of state insurance regulators, noted that if the enhanced ACA tax credits are allowed to expire, premiums for Marketplace plans will increase for all enrollees, but particularly those aged 55 – 64. The NAIC also cautioned Congress to extend the enhanced ACA tax credits as soon as possible to avoid causing a costly and challenging rate filing process for health plans and state regulators.⁵ ***We urge Congress to extend the enhanced ACA tax credits as soon as possible and before they expire at the end of 2025.***

Protecting Care Through Medicaid. Medicaid provides health insurance coverage for millions nationwide and plays a critical role in cancer prevention, access to screening, and diagnostic tests, covering life-saving treatments and supporting patients during survivorship. Changes being considered to create federal savings including per capita caps, block grants, and work requirements, among others, would dramatically change Medicaid’s funding structure, deeply cut federal funding, and shift Medicaid costs to states. Faced with significant reductions in federal funding, states would cut eligibility and benefits, leaving millions of people without access to affordable health coverage, services and care, including cancer care. ***We urge Congress to reject changes to Medicaid’s funding structure and oppose cuts that would result in loss of access to affordable care.***

Thank you for your consideration and your engagement regarding these important issues facing the 119th Congress. We look forward to working with you and stand ready to serve as a resource for you in our shared goal of ending cancer as we know it, for everyone. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Julie Nickson, Vice President of Federal Advocacy and Coalitions, at Julie.Nickson@cancer.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa A. Lacasse". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisa A. Lacasse
President, ACS CAN

³ Marketplace Open Enrollment Period Public Use Files for 2021-2024; Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/statisticstrends-and-reports/marketplace-products>.

⁴ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Nearly 24 Million Consumers Have Selected Affordable Health Coverage in ACA Marketplace, With Time Left to Enroll (Jan. 8, 2025), <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/nearly-24-million-consumers-have-selected-affordable-health-coverage-aca-marketplace-time-left>.

⁵ National Association of Insurance Commissioners Letter to Congress. July 18, 2024. <https://content.naic.org/sites/default/files/enhanced-subsidies-hill-letter-2024-final-july-2024.pdf>.