

ASK: We respectfully ask that you support a recurring increase of \$11 million of additional funding for the Tennessee Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program. This would bring annual funding for the program to \$13 million.

- Tobacco prevention and cessation is one of the smartest and most fiscally responsible investments that Tennessee can make, as smoking now directly causes \$3.10 billion in health care costs annually in our state.
- This funding not only can help individuals quit smoking, but also prevents our children from ever starting a lifetime of addiction to tobacco.
- It is especially important since Tennessee has the 3rd highest adult smoking rate in the country and ranks 3rd in smoking attributable cancer deaths.
- Tobacco use remains the number one cause of preventable death in the United States.
- For every \$1 spent on comprehensive tobacco control programs, states receive up to \$55 in savings from averted tobacco related health care costs.

ASK: In September 2022, JUUL settled with Tennessee for its part in the youth tobacco use epidemic. As a result, our state will receive \$13 million. Please ensure this funding goes to the Tennessee Department of Health for fact-based best practices to keep youth from starting to use tobacco and help Tennesseans of all ages to quit.

- This funding should be invested in the health of Tennessee's youth who were targeted by JUUL.
- The ongoing impact of tobacco addiction requires continued and robust efforts to advance fact-based tobacco control policies.
- Tobacco companies spend \$280.3 million in Tennessee on tobacco marketing annually. As Big Tobacco has been working hard to addict future generations with e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, the need for funding for tobacco prevention programs has never been greater.
- 19% of Tennessee high school students use e-cigarettes, compared to 10% nationally.
- The Tennessee Attorney General's Office receives these funds and has already started receiving a portion of the funds.

Thank you for your continued strong support of the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening Program.

- In 2024, an estimated 6,720 women in Tennessee will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 320 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- Cancers that are found at an early stage are easier to treat and lead to a greater survival rate.
- The Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening Program provides breast and cervical cancer screenings to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured Tennessee residents.
- From 2022–2023, over 16,000 women in Tennessee were served by the program.

ASK: Support increased access to biomarker testing

- Biomarker testing is often used to determine the best treatment for a patient, helping them get the most effective life-saving treatment they need, and bypassing treatment that may be ineffective.
- Biomarker testing is analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen, for the presence of a biomarker. The results can help determine the best treatment plan for a specific patient, including the use of precision medicine.
- Progress in improving cancer outcomes increasingly involves the use of precision medicine.
- Biomarker testing is used in the treatment of cancer patients, as well as a number of other conditions including preeclampsia, arthritis, and more. Research is happening in many other areas, and biomarker testing will likely become increasingly important to the treatment of other diseases like ALS, Parkinsons Disease, and Alzheimer's Disease
- In Tennessee, insurance coverage is failing to keep pace with innovations in testing and treatment, which can leave patients without access to the testing that they need.
- Improving access to biomarker testing can help to achieve better health outcomes, improve quality of life, and reduced costs.