

# American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



Reducing pain and suffering from cancer relies as much on public policy as it does on scientific endeavor. Lawmakers and policymakers at all levels of government play a critical role in decisions that help save lives. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) works tirelessly to educate the public, elected government officials and candidates about cancer's devastating impact. ACS CAN is committed to implementing public policy changes that will reduce our nation's cancer burden at the federal, state and local levels. ACS CAN has several priority areas:

## SMOKE-FREE REGULATION



- ACS CAN has played a significant role in statewide smoke-free campaigns, partnering with state and local coalitions to urge our lawmakers to pass comprehensive smoke-free laws.
- 25 states and the District of Columbia have laws in effect that require non-hospitality workplaces, restaurants, and bars to be 100 percent smoke-free.
- A total of 5,019 municipalities in the United States have laws in effect that restrict where smoking is allowed. These laws, along with local laws in other states, protect 59 percent of the U.S. population.

## FDA REGULATION OF TOBACCO



- Since 2009, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has had the authority to regulate the sale, marketing and manufacturing of tobacco products under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.
- ACS CAN has advocated that flavors be removed from e-cigarettes and cigars which make them wildly popular with youth, and that menthol flavoring of cigarettes be prohibited.
- ACS CAN has advocated for and engaged in litigation to compel the FDA to implement the statutory requirement that cigarette packs have graphic warnings covering 50 percent of the front and back of the packs, and for FDA to fulfill its obligation to review products for their public health impact before coming to market or in order to remain on the market. These products include many e-cigarettes and cigars which are addicting a new generation to nicotine.

## RESEARCH & PREVENTION FUNDING



- Programs that increase access to proven cancer screenings – like mammograms and colonoscopies - especially among medically underserved populations, save thousands of lives each year.
- Without consistent increases in federal research funding, new treatments and tests may not reach cancer patients who need them the most.
- ACS CAN advocates for robust federal funding for cancer research. Since 2001, there has been an increase of over \$19 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and an over \$2 billion increase for the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax deductible.

## COLORECTAL CANCER PREVENTION



- It is estimated that more than 145,000 men and women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2019 with nearly 51,000 individuals expected to die from the disease. Compounding this tragedy is the fact that colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer and thousands of these deaths could be avoided with routine colorectal screenings.
- One of the biggest disincentives to colorectal screening has been patient cost-sharing. Cost-sharing has been mostly eliminated in the private insurance market, but because of a glitch in the health care law, Medicare patients are hit with an unexpected bill if a polyp is found and removed during a colonoscopy.
- ACS CAN supports bipartisan legislation that would eliminate this cost-sharing glitch and allow older Americans to get their recommended colonoscopies without facing a surprise bill.

## ACCESS TO CARE



- Uninsured or underinsured individuals are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer at more advanced stages when treatment is more expensive and patients are more likely to die from the disease.
- ACS CAN advocates for policies that provide quality insurance coverage and access to prevention, medical and palliative services for people with cancer.
- The Society and ACS CAN are focused on implementing policies by working with state executives, state legislators and the federal regulatory process.

## QUALITY OF LIFE CARE



- Palliative care supports patients and their families from the point of diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. Patients who receive this care enjoy a better quality of life, sometimes live longer and it saves the health system money.
- The Palliative Care and Hospice Education Training Act (PCHETA), reintroduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate in 2018, establishes a national campaign to educate patients, families, and providers on the benefits of palliative care. The bill would also ensure palliative care training to health care providers and increase NIH research funding of palliative care.
- Thanks in part to ACS CAN, in 2018, PCHETA passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support from 285 cosponsors, while the Senate version of the bill gained 56 bipartisan cosponsors.
- 24 states have passed ACS CAN's palliative care legislation ensuring that there is more communication and data sharing about this important part of caring for cancer patients.

## HEALTHY EATING AND ACTIVE LIVING ENVIRONMENTS



- One-fifth of all cancers are tied to poor nutrition, physical inactivity, excess weight and excess alcohol consumption.
- Since the 1960's, obesity prevalence among adult men has more than tripled and among women has more than doubled. In youth, prevalence have tripled since the 1970s.
- ACS CAN is working at the local, state and federal levels to prevent these cancers by advocating for legislation and regulations that make information more accessible for healthy choices, ensure healthy schools for our youth and build healthy communities for all.

Contributions or membership payments to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax deductible.