



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network 2013 Iowa Legislative 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. Lawmakers make many decisions that impact the lives of Iowans touched by cancer and their leadership is vital to defeating this disease. In 2013, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) will work with the Iowa Legislature in support of the following priorities:

- **Advance legislation to reduce exposure to radon.** Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas that forms naturally in soil and rock and can move into groundwater and the air in homes. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind cigarette smoking. ACS CAN will work to reduce exposure to radon through education and testing of homes, schools and businesses.
- **Support implementation of the Affordable Care Act.** Access to quality health care directly affects people's ability to prevent, detect, and survive cancer. The sad reality is that too much cancer death and suffering is attributable to gaps in our current health care system. Strong implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including establishment of a consumer-friendly health insurance exchange and expansion of Medicaid, will help ensure access to quality care for more Iowans.
- **Protect funding for Iowa's Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program.** Iowa's tobacco prevention and control program has successfully reduced youth smoking and helped smokers quit across the state. Unfortunately, funding for tobacco prevention and cessation services has been reduced by over 50% since fiscal year 2011 and the current program is woefully underfunded.
- **Protect funding for lifesaving cancer programs.** Too few Iowans are getting vital cancer screenings that could save their lives and reduce health care costs because they lack adequate insurance. The state's cancer screening programs provide breast, cervical and colon cancer screening and treatment services to low-income, uninsured Iowans. ACS CAN will fight to protect these programs.
- **Expand Iowa's statewide smoke-free air law.** Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard that causes cancer and other illness in nonsmokers. Since July 2008, Iowans have been breathing easier while enjoying smoke-free workplaces, bars and restaurants and the related health benefits. Unfortunately, casino employees and patrons continue to be exposed to deadly secondhand smoke on casino floors. ACS CAN will work to expand the smoke-free law to include casino floors.
- **Reduce obesity by improving nutrition and increasing physical activity.** Obesity, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition are major risk factors for cancer, and legislative efforts aimed at these factors offer a critical opportunity for disease prevention, particularly among children. ACS CAN supports shared use legislation to increase access to local recreation facilities, providing communities with safe, convenient spaces for physical activity and encouraging healthy lifestyles.
- **Support efforts to prohibit minors from using tanning facilities.** Melanoma rates in Iowa have more than tripled since 1975 due, in part, to increased use of tanning beds. A recent study found that individuals who used indoor tanning devices before age 30 increase their risk for melanoma by 75%. Unfortunately, parental consent requirements and posted warnings have not effectively curbed tanning bed usage among young people.