

**ACS CAN Connecticut:  
Advocating for  
Health Equity in  
Cancer**



**November 15, 2022**



**Vision:** End cancer as we know it, for everyone.

**Mission:** Improve the lives of people with cancer and their families through advocacy, research, and patient support, to ensure everyone has an opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer.



Health Equity through the Cancer Lens

**Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat and survive cancer.**

**Where you live, should not determine if you live.**

# How does policy impact cancer?

---

Defeating cancer is as much a matter of public policy as it is of scientific discovery

- Access to Health Care
- Cancer Prevention
- Cancer Research Funding
- Quality of Life
- Tobacco Control



# Public Policy Change is Critical to Health Equity

**Access to Care**

**Prevention &  
Tobacco Control**

**Accelerating  
Cures**



---

# ACS CAN Federal Priorities

## **Funding for Cancer Research & Prevention**

Support increased funding levels for cancer research and prevention that ensures continued progress in the fight against cancer at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) cancer programs.

## **Access to Care**

Advance policies that promote equitable access to affordable, quality health care, insurance coverage, cancer prevention and screening. Lower the cost of prescription drugs and reduce patient out of pocket costs, while maintaining cancer patients' access to lifesaving drugs & therapies.

## **Access to Clinical Trials**

Access to Clinical Trials – Support passage of DIVERSE Trials Act (H.R. 5030/S. 2706) to ensure access to cancer clinical trials is available for all Americans by removing barriers to participation.

## **Patient and Survivor Quality of Life**

Support passage of the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA), to facilitate access to palliative care & coordinated care management for cancer patients and survivors.

## **Access to Innovative Cancer Screening Modalities**

Support passage of the Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act (H.R. 1946/S. 1873), to create a pathway allowing Medicare to initiate coverage of multi-cancer tests following FDA approval, if clinical benefit is shown.

---

# Connecticut Priorities

## **Improving coverage of biomarker testing**

Specialized testing can help doctors ensure they are getting the right treatment to the right patient at the right time -- but not everyone has access.

This testing, called “biomarker testing”, identifies markers or mutations in a patient’s cancer cells. The results of biomarker tests can help determine the best treatment plan for a specific patient, leading to improved survivorship and better quality of life.

Unfortunately, not all cancer patients have access to these groundbreaking tests. Many insurance plans won’t cover this testing, even when it’s supported by medical and scientific research.

That is why we are asking Connecticut lawmakers to require insurance plans cover biomarker testing when it’s needed.

## **Reducing Tobacco Use**

Working to support continued funding for programs to reduce tobacco use in our state and ensure that funds are allocated to programs that follow CDC best practices. Additionally, we are asking lawmakers to preserve \$3.4 million in funding for Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation drugs and therapies.

## **Cancer Prevention and Early Detection**

We are asking lawmakers to preserve \$2.9 million funding for Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection programs to ensure that low-income and uninsured people have access to lifesaving cancer screenings.

Additionally we are asking lawmakers to protect \$11 million in funding for HPV vaccination to ensure all kids in Connecticut have access to the vaccine that can prevent many types of cancers.



December 1, 2022 | 8 a.m.  
The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine

# 2022 ACS CAN CT FORUM THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE: BREAST HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Register at [FightCancer.org/CTForum](https://FightCancer.org/CTForum)

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS:





# Thank You