

2016 Legislative Priorities in Kentucky



Reduce Risk of Skin Cancer for Kentucky Youth

- Kentucky has one of the highest incident and death rates from melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, in the nation—even higher than Florida, Arizona, or California
- An increase in skin cancer has been linked to exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation emitted by indoor tanning devices. Younger people are at a higher risk than the rest of the population of suffering from harmful effects later in life.
- ACS CAN supports legislation that would restrict adolescents younger than 18 years old from using indoor tanning devices.

Support Access to Patient-Centered and Family-Focused Palliative Care

- Palliative care gives patients more control and helps take away some of the pain, fear and anxiety that many patients feel after diagnosis. It is appropriate at any age and any stage of a serious illness.
- Palliative care is provided by a team of doctors, nurses and other specialists who work together with a patient's doctor to provide an extra layer of support.
- ACS CAN supports establishing a state advisory council, consumer guide, and education program in Kentucky to increase palliative care initiatives and maximize their effectiveness.

Prevent Colon Cancer and Save Lives with Screening

- ACS CAN supports ongoing efforts to help fund and improve access to colonoscopies through the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening Program, in order to detect this disease early, which can result in lower treatment costs, reduced suffering, and lives saved.

Save Lives and Money by Establishing Strong Tobacco Control Policies

- ACS CAN supports comprehensive, statewide smoke-free legislation that protects the rights of nonsmokers inside all worksites, including bars and restaurants.
 - Exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace negatively impacts the health of Kentucky's population and severely diminishes the critical competitive edge of a productive, stable, and efficient workforce. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, which has been proven to cause lung cancer, heart disease, and serious respiratory illness.
 - The best way to reduce secondhand smoke exposure is to make all public places 100 percent smoke-free. Everyone has the right to breathe smoke-free air and no one should have to choose between their health and a good job.
- ACS CAN supports a tobacco excise tax increase of at least \$1.50
 - Kentucky's tobacco excise tax of \$0.60 is well below the national average of \$1.60, and was last raised seven years ago.
 - Regular and significant increases in the tobacco excise tax are proven to reduce youth smoking.

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