



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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Health Budget Testimony
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
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NY at a glance:

Estimated new cancer cases in

2024: **122,900**

Estimated cancer death in

2024: **30,990**

Senate Finance Chair Krueger, Assembly Ways and Means Chair Weinstein, and distinguished Members of the Senate and Assembly, my name is Michael Davoli and I am the New York State Senior Director of Government Relations for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN). ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions

designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the health proposals in the Executive Budget. My budget testimony today will include four requests:

- ✓ Restore funding for the NYS Cancer Services Program to \$26.8 million in FY 2024-2025;
- ✓ Restore funding to the NYS Tobacco Control Program to \$46,658 million in FY 2024-2025;
- ✓ Ensure that all tobacco products are taxed at the same rate as cigarettes;
- ✓ Reduce the impact of medical debt on patients; and
- ✓ Ensure that all working cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers have access to paid family and medical leave.

Cancer remains the second leading killer in New York. The six leading **cancer types** are **prostate, breast, Lung & Bronchus, colorectal, urinary bladder, and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma**. The six leading cancer types resulting in **death** are **lung & bronchus, pancreas, colorectal, breast, prostate, and liver & bile cancer**. Many of these cancers are preventable or can be treated if caught early. To help save more lives from cancer ACS CAN is asking for the legislatures support of the following priorities in the 2024-2025 New York State Budget:

NYS Cancer Services Program: ACS CAN is asking that you restore funding to the NYS Cancer Services Program (CSP) to \$22.325 million in FY 2024-2025. The New York State Cancer Services Program, the state's breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening and treatment program for low-income uninsured and underinsured women and men, had its budget increased by \$2.5 million in the final FY 2023-2024 budget agreed upon by the Legislature and the Governor after receiving flat funding since 2017. Unfortunately, the FY 2024-2025 Executive Budget reduces its budget to \$19.825 million. Additional money is needed to ensure that the CSP can address the large unmet need for access to cancer screening in New York State..

NYS Tobacco Control Program: ACS CAN is asking that you restore funding to the NYS Tobacco Control Program to \$46.658 million in FY 2024-2025. The New York State Tobacco Control Program had its budget increased by \$7.5 Million in the final FY 2023-2024 budget agreed upon by the Legislature and the Governor after having its budget cut in half in the past decade. Unfortunately, the FY 2024-2025 Executive Budget reduces its budget back to \$39.158 Million. A well-funded tobacco control program will not only produce long-term savings but can have an immediate benefit on the health of New Yorkers

Tobacco Tax Parity: ACS CAN is asking you to ensure that all other tobacco products are taxed at the same rate as cigarettes. While last year's increase in the cigarette tax was one of the best things that New York State could do to help reduce tobacco use, it is important that tax increases apply to all tobacco products at an equivalent rate to encourage people to quit rather than switch to a cheaper product as well as to prevent youth from starting to use any tobacco product. In New York State other tobacco products, products including but not limited to, moist snuff, nasal snuff, loose-leaf and plug chewing tobacco, snus, dissolvable tobacco products, cigars, pipe tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco, hookah, and electronic cigarettes, are taxed at a lower rate than cigarettes, making them an appealing alternative for price-sensitive consumers including youth. New York State should establish tax parity for all tobacco products and dedicate any additional revenue generated to the NYS Tobacco Control Program.

Paid Family and Medical Leave: ACS CAN is asking you to support legislation that ensures all working cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers have access to paid family and medical leave that allows them to take time off work to attend to their own or a loved one's care without losing their job or income. We are very pleased to see that both the Legislature **A4053/S2821**, and the Governor have put forward proposals to address this critical issue and we encourage you to address paid family and medical leave in the 2024-2025 budget.

Reducing the impact of Medical Debt: ACS CAN is asking you to support legislation that reduces the impact of medical debt on people with cancer, caregivers, and their families. We are very pleased to see that both the Legislature, with the **Ounce of Prevention Act - S1366A/A6027A** and the **Stop SUNY Suing Act - A8017/S7778**, and the Governor have put forward proposals to address this critical issue and we encourage you to address the impact of medical debt in the 2024-2025 budget.

We thank you for considering these recommendations. We are now at a crucial point for cancer prevention in New York State. On behalf of 1.7 Million cancer survivors living in New York State, the more than 122,000 New Yorkers who will hear the words 'you have cancer' in 2024 and the nearly 31,000 New Yorkers who will lose their battle with cancer in 2024, we ask you to adopt a budget that prioritizes cancer prevention and early detection to save lives and to reduce the toll of cancer on New York State's families and our health care system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.