

American Cancer Society (ACS)

Improve cancer prevention, treatment, and coverage

Organization Description: ACS is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization. With 13 chartered divisions and over 3,400 local offices throughout the country, ACS aims to eliminate cancer as a major health problem through research, education, patient service, advocacy, and rehabilitation.

Proposal Summary: ACS does not have a comprehensive health care reform plan, but does engage in advocacy-related activities at the federal, state, and local levels. Its advocacy efforts work in concert with its research, education, and service initiatives to expand federal funding for cancer research; increase access to preventive screenings; and improve the quality of life for cancer patients, survivors, and their families.

- **Coverage:** ASC advocates for health insurance market reforms to expand coverage, create portable insurance products, and ensure continuity of coverage for individuals with cancer and other serious illnesses. The organization does not have specific proposals to support these policy principles. ASC supports federal and state private insurance coverage requirements or other policies that increase coverage for colorectal cancer screening.
- **Wellness and Prevention:** ASC supports efforts to prevent and reduce tobacco use by enacting smoke free ordinances, enhancing Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of tobacco, and increasing taxes on tobacco sales. It seeks to improve early detection and treatment options for site-specific cancers. It seeks to increase the number of comprehensive school health education programs that promote healthy choices, better nutrition, and increased physical activity and choices. By the year 2015, ASC aims to reduce age-adjusted cancer mortality and incidence rates by 50% and 25%, respectively.
- **Care Coordination:** It supports efforts to improve the care management of pain and symptoms associated with cancer.
- **Quality:** ACS supports legislation that expands access to prevention, early detection, and treatment services for cancer and other chronic diseases in medically underserved communities.
- **Health Information Technology:** ACS supports implementing monitoring systems nationwide that track cancer incidence, mortality, risk factor and screening prevalence, and quality of life dimensions.
- **Other:** The organization lobbies to: (1) expand federal funding for cancer research, prevention, and control activities; (2) allow scientists greater flexibility in conducting potentially beneficial genetic and biological research with appropriate review and controls in place; and (3) increase access to and participation in clinical trials.

Proposal Date: 2006

Source: ACS website - Advocacy & Public Policy,

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/AA/content/AA_2_3_Advocacy_and_Public_Policy.asp?sitearea=AA.