

ACS CAN MICHIGAN REPORT

2018 WRAP UP AND 2019 PRIORITIES

2018 lame duck session in the Michigan legislature did not disappoint for those looking for politically driven action. For ACS CAN we saw losses on the two major issue we were working on but saw a victory on an issue reared its ugly head during the lame duck session. Let's take a deeper dive into lame duck and whats on the horizon for 2019.

Lame Duck

- ACS CAN was ready and prepared to enter the lame duck session of the Michigan legislature. Our major issue of Oral Chemo Fairness was finally going to have a hearing in a House committee for the first time ever. Chairman Hank Vaupel of the House Health Policy committee had given us time at what was supposed to be the last committee hearing of the year for the committee. The agenda was packed that day with several different issues. Our issue was in the last part of the committee, which only gave the issue 8 minutes to be considered by the committee. With close to 100 volunteers there for the committee, it was a lackluster effort by the legislature and Chairman Hank Vaupel to make any effort to actually move the legislation. What that committee our efforts for 2018 were officially done.
- Our second major efforts were to include the funding for the tobacco section to fully fund the Tobacco Quitline and fund a pilot project into the underserved communities in Michigan. There was a major supplemented budget bill that was being formed during lame duck to fund other projects in Michigan and that was going to be our avenue. Through negotiations, we were able to get support form the Senate and the Governor's office but the House failed to see the value in funding the programs and on the last day of the session the proposal was not added to the budget.
- Efforts from the cigar industry were made to make their special tax rate permanent during the lame duck session. Michigan taxes cigars, chewing tobacco, and other non-cigarette tobacco products on a percentage of the wholesale price. The premium cigar industry came to the legislature a while back and said in order to stay competitive and operating they needed relief from the high tax rate and they could not compete with online sales. The legislature agreed and set the tax rate to \$.50 a cigar with a sunset. Efforts to make it permanent two years were derailed by ACS CAN and AHA and the sunset was moved from 2018 to 2021. This time ACS CAN and AHA were able to stop the second round of efforts by getting a veto from Governor Snyder on his way out the door, leaving us with a surprise win during lame duck.



1755 Abbey Road East Lansing, MI 48823 • (517) 664-1312
andrew.schepers@cancer.org

fightcancer.org

2019 Priorities

This coming year we will be focusing on an issue that is familiar to most and taking on big tobacco to try to weaken its grip on Michigan children. Here is what's in store for 2019.

- **Oral Chemotherapy Fairness**

Create fairness for patients when obtaining Oral Chemotherapy treatment. Treatments for cancer have continued to evolve over the past several decades. Before the traditional treatments for cancer include surgery and intravenous drugs. Today's medicine has advanced where treatment can be taken with a simple pill. Medicine has evolved but the insurance industry has not. Oral treatments for cancer patients have seen an incline on the cost of the treatments which is putting them out of reach. Over 40 states have addressed this issue providing fairness for cancer treatments. Michigan does not have fairness for cancer patients, leaving patients making critical decisions about their treatment and health. We need fairness to provide access to the critical medications patients need.

- **Raising Michigan's Tobacco Purchasing Age from 18 to 21**

The past several years' studies continue to be published that shows there is a need to work tobacco, including e-cigarettes out of the hands of our children. ACS CAN is committed to curbing the use of tobacco in our youth and one strategy is raising the purchasing age to 21. Studies have shown that by increasing the age to 21 it will prevent some of our youth from starting tobacco. ACS CAN supports raising Michigan's tobacco purchasing age for all products to 21.

- **Other issues**

- \$250,000 Increase funding for Tobacco Prevention.
- \$250,000 Increase funding for Cancer Prevention.
- Tobacco Tax Increase.
- Non-Medical Switching (stopping the practice of switching medications during a mid-plan year)
- Lunch Line Legislation (Ending lunching shaming in our public schools)

As you can see we have an aggressive agenda for the 100th Michigan Legislature. We are ready to get back at it in Lansing and we are hopeful with a new administration we are going to be able to get some successes. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me at andrew.schepers@cancer.org.

Don't forget Michigan's Day at the Capitol is **April 24th!** Register at fightcancer.org/MIDayattheCapitol

1755 Abbey Road East Lansing, MI 48823 • (517) 664-1312
andrew.schepers@cancer.org

fightcancer.org