2021 ILLINOIS SESSION REPORT

Shana Crews, Illinois Government Relations Director
Emily Hall, Illinois Grassroots Manager
2021 was the year of healthcare for the Illinois General Assembly. American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network was the driving force behind many of the major healthcare victories.

Early in session, the Black Caucus presented and passed the Health Equity Pillar. ACS CAN supported several provision of the legislation including implicit bias and racial training, expansion of sick leave, increased access to primary care physicians and federal qualified health centers, and state health assessment and improvement plan additions. The legislation was signed into law in April 2021.

Illinois is leading the way for biomarker testing. This session, the IL General Assembly approved our model language for biomarker testing coverage unanimously. The legislation ensure Medicaid and the state regulated market cover biomarker testing when indicated. The language is tied to national recommendations so as precision medicine continues to evolve, the biomarker testing language will evolve too. When HB1779 is signed into law, Illinois will be the first state in the country to pass biomarker testing coverage.

Illinois also will be the first state to pass through the legislature HB1745 to ensure patients have the ability to plan and predict their prescription drug costs. The SAIM language is modeled after the Department of Insurance regulations in Colorado and Montana.

Illinois also passed a measure to ensure follow up colonoscopies are covered and part of the preventative screening process so patients do not face an additional cost burden.

Overall, 2021 was an impactful year for patients in Illinois. We took many steps to creating a more fair and just health care system in the state. There is more work to do and ACS CAN Illinois is looking forward to continuing the momentum in 2022.
Signed by Governor Pritzker:
- HB158 Black Caucus Health Equity Pillar
- SB2294: Medicaid Coverage of Tobacco Cessation Counseling
- SB2338: Includes prohibition on college athletes endorsing tobacco or cannabis
- Budget SB2800- Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Funding
- Budget SB2800- Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program

Passed legislature waiting Gov. signature:
- HB1779: Biomarker Testing
- HB1745: Out of Pocket Predictable Prescription Drug Costs
- HB2653: Follow Up Colonoscopies
- HB3308: Telemedicine
- HB119: Drug Repository
- SB1846: Healthy Default Kid Meal Beverage

Defensive legislation:
- HB2948: Prevented a repeal for the copay accumulator ban on high deductible health plans.
- HB339: Prevented a repeal of the protections against short term duration health plans.
- HB778: Prevented a reinstatement of tobacco possession penalties.
3.4 MILLION
Illinoisans will have access to comprehensive biomarker testing through Medicaid & state regulated insurance

291,215
Illinoisans will be able to buy an insurance plan with predictable and fixed prescription drug costs in 2023.

41,378
women have been screened by the Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program over the last 5 years: 18,274 women have received pap tests and 37,711 women have received mammography services

14.5%
of Illinois adults still smoke tobacco. We expanded Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation counseling and maintained funding for the Illinois Tobacco Quitline to help all Illinoisans kick the deadly habit.
Advocacy in Action

15,020 volunteers across Illinois took action this year to help in the fight against cancer.

723 Illinoisans directly contacted their elected officials on behalf of our cancer fighting agenda.

105 advocates participated in our prescription drug town hall.

147 Traditional media stories in print, radio, and television about cancer issues.

For more information, please contact Shana Crews at shana.crews@cancer.org or 309.645.6909