



Testimony in support of SB 316  
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

February 8, 2018

Chairwoman Schmidt and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Action Network (ACS CAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on possible increases in the excise tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products. 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. As the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government. **As tobacco remains the number one preventable cause of cancer incidence and death, ACS CAN supports comprehensive tobacco cessation as provided in SB 316.**

Among all current U.S. adult cigarette smokers, nearly seven out of every 10 (68 percent) reported in 2015 that they wanted to quit completely.<sup>i</sup> In order to help current users quit, **all tobacco users - including those enrolled in Medicaid - need access to a range of treatments to find the most effective cessation tools for them.** Research shows that the most effective tobacco cessation treatments combine cessation counseling and medications approved for that purpose by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The changes in SB 316 would bring KanCare in line with other insurance coverage in Kansas currently cover comprehensive cessation benefits. As of April 2017, **federal law requires most private plans, including employer-offered plans, Medicaid expansion plans, and marketplace plans to cover without any cost-sharing, tobacco use screening and cessation services.** In order to improve health and reduce health care costs to the state, KanCare ought to provide this benefit that will maximize cessation success and is equal to what is required in the private market in Kansas.

**States are incentivized to cover tobacco cessation and other preventive services in traditional Medicaid through an increase in the federal matching rate.**<sup>ii</sup> Covering tobacco cessation services for all tobacco users in all health plans, especially those enrolled in Medicaid, is critical to reducing tobacco use, saving lives and ultimately saving money. For these reasons, I urge your support for SB 316.

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<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Quitting Smoking Among Adults—United States, 2000–2015. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report 2017;65(52):1457-64.

<sup>ii</sup> ACS CAN: How Do You Measure Up 2017. <https://www.acscan.org/how-do-you-measure-up>