



March 31, 2023

Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is committed to making sure all Minnesotans have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer. It is with these goals in mind that we share our support of the following provisions in the Senate Health and Human Services omnibus bill.

**1. ACS CAN supports removing barriers to biomarker testing (Article 1, Sec. 21 and Article 2, Sec. 18).**

SF1948 (Seeberger) improves coverage of comprehensive biomarker testing. Biomarker testing is an important step to accessing precision medicine that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients, but insurance coverage is failing to keep pace with innovation.

This legislation establishes clear guardrails to align coverage of biomarker testing with robust and reputable sources of evidence. Tests will not meet the criteria spelled out without having clear benefit, and physicians will not order tests that won't provide useful information. Insurers are already covering much of this testing – this is about making sure state-regulated plans play by the same rules and keep up with science so that patients get the testing they need to get the right treatment at the right time.

**2. ACS CAN supports dedicating any funds from the JUUL Lawsuit to tobacco prevention and treatment (Article 4, Sec. 3, 33).**

SF2520 (Morrison) dedicates any revenue collected from the JUUL Lawsuit to proven, evidence-based programs to prevent youth tobacco use, help those addicted quit, and address tobacco-related health disparities.

**3. ACS CAN supports the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council (Article 4, Sec. 73).**

SF2145 (Hoffman) which would restore funding for the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council (PCAC), remove the PCAC sunset date, and fund a DHS study on the fiscal, medical, and social impacts of creating a palliative care benefit for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees. The PCAC works to identify barriers to coordinated, supportive care during the treatment of serious illnesses such as cancer.

Thank you for including these provisions in the health omnibus bill and your continued leadership on issues important in the fight against cancer. We look forward to supporting your efforts in the weeks ahead to ensure this language is included in any final health omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Myatt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Myatt  
Regional Government Relations Director  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network