



Testimony in support of HB 2129  
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Action Network (ACS CAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the HB 2129, a bill that would expand tobacco cessation benefits for Kansans on the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) with no cost-sharing. As the nonprofit, non-partisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, ACS CAN advocates for public policies that reduce death and suffering from cancer which include policies targeted at reducing tobacco use and helping adults quit.

In Kansas, 27.7% of cancer deaths are attributed to smoking, and 4,400 Kansans will die this year from their own smoking. Annual health care costs directly caused by smoking are \$1.12 billion, or \$769 per household.

16.2% of Kansas adults smoke and it is important to ensure cessation coverage for those Kansans, helping tobacco users quit and saving our state money. Comprehensive tobacco cessation programs with no cost-sharing or other barriers can help many enrollees successfully quit.

Tobacco use interventions are the gold standard in public health for cost-effectiveness. A 2010 study by the American Lung Association and Penn State University found a 26 percent return on investment for states investing in tobacco cessation treatment. Investing in cessation treatment improves the health of Kansans and the economy.

This bill is a step in the right direction, and we hope in the future the legislature will move beyond SEHP enrollees and ensure more Kansans have access to a comprehensive cessation benefit.