



April 7, 2022

Minnesota House Health Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF 4706

Dear Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is committed to reducing the pain and suffering from cancer in Minnesota and across the country. It is with these goals in mind that we share our support of the following provisions in the House Health Finance and Policy omnibus bill.

1. ACS CAN supports removing barriers to commercial tobacco cessation treatment (Article 3, Section 25).

Thank you for including language (HF 3153 Morrison) to remove barriers to commercial tobacco cessation treatment for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees, ensuring more Minnesotans have a comprehensive cessation benefit that covers individual, group, and telephone counseling and all FDA-approved tobacco cessation medications without barriers like prior authorization.

2. ACS CAN supports modifying the definition of palliative care in state statute (Article 2, Section 25).

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illnesses that is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness. It helps both the patient and family and is appropriate at any age and any stage. However, Minnesota state statute defines palliative care as end-of-life care. ACS CAN supports the language in this omnibus, originally HF 3148 (Reyer), that would modify the definition of palliative care in state statute.

3. ACS CAN supports funding for the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council (Article 10, Section 3).

Thank you for including HF 2517 (Reyer), which would fund the Palliative Care Advisory Council. The Palliative Care Advisory Council (PCAC) was established in 2017 with strong bipartisan support to identify ways to expand access and remove barriers to palliative care. PCAC examined the state of palliative care in Minnesota, studied pediatric palliative care, and has issued several reports with recommendations to increase equitable access to palliative care to the legislature.

4. ACS CAN supports modifications to the Cancer Reporting System (Article 1, Section 11).

ACS CAN supports language that would allow Minnesota to share its cancer data with other state and national cancer registries, which will make sure our researchers have the data they need to find new cures and treatments and ensure federal funding continues to come into our state to support the fight against cancer.

Thank you for 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,

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