



South Carolina Cancer Alliance (SCCA) 2009 Cancer Policy & Legislative Agenda

The SCCA recommends:

1. Increase cigarette tax increase to at least \$1.00 per pack.

Rationale:

Increasing the cigarette tax is the most effective way to reduce smoking among children and adults and prevent future death and disease

2. Secure at least \$3.7 million recurring funding for the state colorectal cancer screening program for low income uninsured persons.

Rationale:

Most colorectal cancers deaths can be prevented with routine screening. Need recurring state funds in the DHEC budget to continue vital screening services for low income, uninsured persons.

3. Secure at least \$2 million recurring state funding for the expansion of breast and cervical cancer screening by the Best Chance Network (BCN).

Rationale:

Breast and cervical cancer screening saves lives. Currently \$2 million non recurring state dollars support BCN for screening. These funds allow BCN to double the number of low income women screened and expand screenings to the 40-46 age category.

4. Secure at least \$5 million recurring state funding for youth tobacco prevention and cessation program.

Rationale:

90% of smokers started at an early age. Comprehensive state-wide, youth smoking prevention programs, as recommended by the CDC, can prevent children from becoming smokers through education, community programs, media campaigns and enforcement. Vital cessation services can help youth and adult smokers quit.

Adopted by the SCCA Coordinating Council and Executive Committee in October 2008