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Governor Walker's State Budget Preserves Two Critical Cancer-Fighting Programs

Madison, Wisconsin – February 3, 2015 –In response to Governor Walker's proposed state budget, Sara Sahli, Wisconsin Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) issued the following statement:

“As an organization dedicated to making the fight against cancer a state and national priority, we are pleased that, even though the state is facing significant fiscal challenges, Governor Walker has proposed funding the Wisconsin Well Woman Program and the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program at their current levels.

“Well Woman provides breast and cervical cancer screenings to uninsured and underinsured Wisconsin women and is a critical source of much-needed health care for thousands of women across the state. Last year the program served more than 5,000 women, providing timely screenings, diagnosis and peace of mind to those who might otherwise be forced to skip their doctor recommended mammogram or Pap test.

“Governor Walker protected funding for Well Woman in his first two budgets and we're glad to see his continued commitment to the program in this budget. We hope the Legislature will follow his lead in supporting Well Woman.

“The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, which has achieved tremendous progress in reducing adult and teen smoking rates in the state, is also given level funding in Walker's budget. The program is essential to continued success reducing Wisconsin's tobacco burden, which a recent University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee report estimated at more \$4.6 billion annually or \$528 for every person in the state. Not to mention the more than 7,000 lives lost each year due to tobacco-related illness.

“Considering the heavy toll tobacco takes on the state, Wisconsin should invest more in this proven program. One way to potentially supplement the program's budget would be to close a tax loophole allowing so-called 'little cigars' and other non-cigarette tobacco products to be taxed at a much lower rate than cigarettes. Closing this loophole would reduce the affordability of these products for kids and prevent years of addiction and associated health problems.

“We understand Wisconsin continues to face tough financial choices, yet fighting cancer should always be a top policy priority. We look forward to reviewing Governor Walker's complete budget proposal and working with the Administration and the Legislature to ensure Wisconsin is doing all it can to combat cancer. “

About ACS CAN

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. ACS CAN works

to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard. For more information, visit www.acscan.org.