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**Testimony of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
Before the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services  
Regarding SB 332  
November 15, 2016**

Thank you Chairman Sprague, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 332. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports reducing tobacco use, which this bill aims to do by reducing tobacco use during pregnancy, in households with children, and by individuals on Medicaid.

According to the Ohio Department of Health, 17 percent of women giving birth in Ohio smoke while pregnant. This rate is double the national average. Rates are the highest among low-income women, including those on Medicaid, with one in three smoking during pregnancy.<sup>i</sup>

Pregnant women who smoke are nearly twice as likely to have a low-birthweight baby than women who do not smoke. According to the Office of Health Transformation, in Ohio, low-weight births represent only about 10 percent of all Medicaid births but account for more than 50 percent of all Medicaid birth expenditures.<sup>ii</sup> Women who quit smoking during the first three to four months of pregnancy are less likely to have low-birthweight babies.<sup>iii</sup>

Smoking is linked to an increased risk of infant death. Of the top 15 causes of infant mortality identified by the National Center for Health Statistics, smoking during pregnancy contributes to five.<sup>iv</sup> Research suggests that babies of mothers who smoke during pregnancy are three to four times more likely to die from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) than babies born to non-smoking mothers. The risk of SIDS is somewhat less for infants whose mothers stop smoking during pregnancy.<sup>v</sup> Babies who are exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to die from SIDS.<sup>vi</sup>

ACS CAN supports reducing tobacco use among all populations as smoking accounts for 30.1% of all cancer deaths in Ohio. In addition to lung cancer, smoking causes cancer in the trachea, bronchus, esophagus, oral cavity, lip, nasopharynx, nasal cavity, larynx, stomach, bladder, pancreas, kidney, liver, uterine cervix, colon and rectum, and causes leukemia according to the Centers for Disease Control.

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<sup>i</sup> Ohio Department of Health, [www.odh.ohio.gov/en/features/odhfeatures/Smokefree%20Mothers%20Day.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/en/features/odhfeatures/Smokefree%20Mothers%20Day.aspx), 04/30/2014.

<sup>ii</sup> Ohio Office of Health Transformation, [www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=WYmi2d7Jh3E%3D&tabid=136](http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=WYmi2d7Jh3E%3D&tabid=136).

<sup>iii</sup> American Cancer Society, How Can Smoking Affect Your Baby's Health?, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

<sup>iv</sup> Kung, HC, et al., "Table C. Infant deaths and infant mortality rates for the 10 leading causes of infant death: United States, preliminary 2005," Health E-Stats, NCHS, September 2007.

<sup>v</sup> American Cancer Society, How Can Smoking Affect Your Baby's Health?, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

<sup>vi</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tobacco Use and Pregnancy, [www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/tobaccopregnancy/](http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/tobaccopregnancy/), updated August 5, 2014.