



## Memorandum in Support: HB 623

### We Support Increasing Access to Oral Chemotherapies

---

We strongly support legislation to require health insurance plans in Pennsylvania to cover orally administered chemotherapy treatment similar to intravenously administered or injected chemotherapy treatments.

As a result of ever evolving, cutting edge research and a commitment to finding cures and improving treatments, researchers are continually identifying new and more effective treatments for cancers and other serious diseases. This medical advance is very exciting and its benefits for patients are significant.

**However, some insurance companies are not providing fair coverage of oral chemotherapy, making it extremely cost prohibitive for most patients.**

- Since this chemotherapy treatment comes in the form of a pill, insurance companies are classifying it as a prescription drug treatment and charging a coinsurance, which is typically a percentage of the total cost of the drug, while traditional IV treatment out-of-pocket is an affordable co pay for the patient.
- Oral chemotherapy is very different than the average prescription drug in terms of co-pays and coverage. Most patients must currently pay out-of-pocket in the highest drug price category in order to access it.
- **This means that for patients, the pill form of chemotherapy can cost tens of thousands of dollars.** This is clearly unfair and greatly limits patient access to a viable and very desirable alternative to traditional chemotherapy treatment, which would help enhance compliance, improve a patient's quality of life when undergoing treatment and as a result, could result in better outcomes.

**HB 623 would revise Pennsylvania's insurance law to correct this discrepancy and ensure that chemotherapy treatment, no matter how administered, is covered equally by insurance companies.**

Patients with cancers should have access to the best possible treatments to fight their illness, regardless of their age, ethnicity, income, insurance status, where they live or any other factors. **We urge passage of this important bill as soon as possible to level the playing field and ensure Pennsylvania cancer patients with access to life saving treatments.**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Andrews & Patel Associates  
International Cancer Action Network  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association

PA Breast Cancer Coalition  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute  
Women of Hope & Faith