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organization for the oncology team



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March 4, 2010

Representative Anthony DeLuca
Chairman, House Insurance Committee
115 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman DeLuca:

On behalf of the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC), we appreciate this opportunity to support Pennsylvania House Bill 1865, a bill addressing the cost of oral anti-cancer chemotherapy. ACCC fully supports this bill, and encourages the Legislature to pass this legislation quickly to help cancer patients in Pennsylvania.

ACCC is a membership organization whose members include hospitals, physicians, nurses, social workers, and oncology team members who care for millions of patients and families fighting cancer. ACCC's more than 900 member institutions and organizations treat 60 percent of all U.S. cancer patients when combined with our physician membership.

Oral chemotherapeutics are becoming a major part in the treatment of cancer as over 25% of current drugs in the pipeline are oral regimens. This means that an increasing number of patients will be receiving their therapies orally, as opposed to through an IV. While this may be good for the patient's overall health, the cost of the oral therapies is often too much to bear for patients. Since most of the oral therapies are covered differently than their IV counterparts, much more of the financial burden falls on the patients. These concerns are often what guide a patient's treatment decision options, as opposed to what might be best for their health.

ACCC feels that HB 1865 will begin to address some of these issues, and therefore support its passage. In 2007, the 74th Oregon Legislative Assembly passed a bill pertaining to health insurance coverage of oral chemotherapy. Senate bill 8 states, "a health benefit plan that provides coverage for cancer chemotherapy treatment must provide coverage for a prescribed, orally administered anticancer medication...no less favorable than intravenously administered or injected cancer medications that are covered as medical benefits." ACCC supported this bill and will continue to support

other states that take up similar measures. Recently, ACCC has supported efforts to enact similar oral chemotherapy legislation in Maryland, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Matthew Farber, MA
Director, Provider Economics & Public Policy
Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)

CC: Representative Nicholas Micozzie
Representative Frank Burns

ACCC Member Hospitals and Cancer Programs

- [Abington Memorial Hospital, Rosenfeld Cancer Center](#) — Abington
- [Albert Einstein Healthcare Network, Cancer Center](#) — Philadelphia
- [Allegheny General Hospital, Allegheny Cancer Center](#) — Pittsburgh
- [Alle-Kiski Medical Center/Allegheny Valley Hospital, Alle-Kiski Cancer Center](#) — Natrona Heights
- [Altoona Regional Health System, Regional Cancer Center](#) — Altoona
- [ARIA Health - Torresdale, The Cancer Center at ARIA Health](#) — Philadelphia
- [Bryn Mawr Hospital / Main Line Health System](#) — Bryn Mawr
- [Cancer Center at Clarion Hospital](#) — Clarion
- [Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Crozer Regional Cancer Center](#) — Upland
- [Delaware County Memorial Hospital, Delaware County Regional Cancer Center](#) — Drexel Hill
- [Doylestown Hospital Cancer Center](#) — Doylestown
- [DuBois Regional Medical Center, Hahne Regional Cancer Center](#) — DuBois
- [Fox Chase Cancer Center - American Oncologic Hospital](#) — Philadelphia
- [Geisinger Health System, Geisinger Cancer Institute](#) — Danville
- [Grand View Hospital](#) — Sellersville
- [Holy Redeemer Health System, The Charles A. and Betty Bott Cancer Center at Holy Redeemer](#) — Meadowbrook
- [Lancaster General Hospital](#) — Lancaster
- [Lankenau Hospital / Main Line Health System](#) — Wynnewood
- [Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network, John & Dorothy Morgan Cancer Center](#) — Allentown
- [Lewistown Hospital, Cancer Services](#) — Lewistown
- [Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital Cancer Center](#) — Scranton
- [Monongahela Valley Hospital, Regional Cancer Treatment Center](#) — Monongahela
- [Montgomery Hospital Medical Center, Montgomery Hospital Cancer Center](#) — Norristown
- [Norristown Regional Cancer Center](#) — Norristown
- [Paoli Hospital / Main Line Health System](#) — Paoli
- [Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute](#) — Hershey
- [Pinnacle Health Hospitals, Pinnacle Health Regional Cancer Center](#) — Harrisburg
- [Pocono Medical Center, The Dale and Frances Hughes Cancer Center](#) — East Stroudsburg
- [Robert Packer Hospital, Guthrie Cancer Center](#) — Sayre
- [Sharon Regional Health System, Cancer Care Center](#) — Hermitage
- [St. Clair Hospital, The Cancer Center at St. Clair](#) — Pittsburgh
- [St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network, St. Luke's Cancer Center](#) — Bethlehem
- [Summit Physician Services, Summit Cancer and Hematology Services](#) — Chambersburg
- [The Cancer Center at Phoenixville Hospital](#) — Phoenixville
- [The Chester County Hospital, Cancer Program](#) — West Chester
- [The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, The Reading Hospital Regional Cancer Center](#) — Reading
- [The Regional Cancer Center](#) — Erie
- [UPMC Cancer Centers and University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute](#) — Pittsburgh

- UPMC Northwest, UPMC Cancer Center at UPMC Northwest — Seneca
- Wellspan Health, York Cancer Center — York
- WellSpan/Gettysburg Hospital, Adams Cancer Center — Gettysburg
- West Penn Allegheny Oncology Network, dba, Medical Center Clinic — Pittsburgh
- Yolanda G. Barco Oncology Institute — Meadville