

House Insurance Committee
March 18, 2010 Public Hearing
House Bill 1865 (Burns) – Oncology Parity

Good morning and welcome to the House Insurance Committee's public hearing on House Bill 1865 – legislation sponsored by Representative Frank Burns. The legislation will help cancer patients by eliminating one of the issues facing them in selecting the treatment regimen that best fits their needs. Specifically the bill requires equalizing the patient's share of insurance costs no matter what form the treatment takes - whether it be intravenous or through pills.

Before we get to our agenda, I do want to thank Penn State and the Hershey Medical Center for hosting us today. It is clear that this facility is the home to plenty of good work in researching and treating cancer. I also want to thank Representative Burns for sponsoring this innovative legislation. Representative Burns is clearly mindful of the problems in attempting to mandate coverage, and has attempted – with this bill – to walk that fine line. Given this, I'd ask Representative Burns to give a few introductory remarks.

Conclusion:

I want to thank all of our presenters today. As with every piece of legislation in this committee, there are competing interests with valid perspectives. The information presented today will be analyzed and used as a basis for possible amendments as the legislative process moves forward.

Again my thanks to the Medical Center and my congratulations for the fine work that it is performing. And last but not least, I want to thank those members of the Committee who attended today's hearing. I hope you found it as helpful as I did.