



American Society of Clinical Oncology

March 6, 2015

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The Honorable Jeb Bradley
Majority Leader
New Hampshire State Senate
State House, Room 302
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Majority Leader Bradley,

On behalf of the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO), I am pleased to support your legislation, New Hampshire Senate bill 137. This legislation would help address the unacceptable barriers to cancer care that occur when undue cost sharing requirements are imposed upon individuals for oral anticancer drugs.

ASCO is the world's leading professional society representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 35,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

Due to scientific advances, treatment with oral and other self-administered anticancer drugs is often more effective and less burdensome to the patient than intravenously administered forms of cancer medications that require treatment in the hospital or clinic. In some instances, oral drugs may represent the only or best treatment option. Today, however, some health plans have begun to impose significantly higher cost sharing requirements (copayments, coinsurance, etc.) on cancer patients for oral drugs than for intravenous or injected drugs. The cost sharing burdens imposed on patients for oral cancer drugs can create insurmountable financial barriers to optimal treatment even as some of these treatments may have the potential to lower the overall cost of care.

The majority of states already have enacted laws to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to oral anticancer medications. ASCO encourages New Hampshire to take this important step as well. If you have questions or would like assistance from ASCO on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Brunelle at jennifer.brunelle@asco.org.

Sincerely,

Peter P. Yu, MD, FASCO
ASCO President

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