

Bill #: SB 0272

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

My name is Alysen Regiec, and I live in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. I am an eight-year breast cancer survivor and a strong advocate for scalp cooling. I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 0272, which would require insurance coverage for scalp cooling during chemotherapy.

In 2018, I was treated for Stage 2A HER2-positive breast cancer at Chesapeake Oncology and Hematology Associates (COHA) at Baltimore Washington Medical Center. My treatment included TCHP chemotherapy—a powerful four-drug regimen—followed by surgery and radiation. During chemotherapy, I used the DigniCap scalp cooling system, and it made an extraordinary difference in my experience. Preserving my hair allowed me to continue working in the office and maintain a sense of normalcy during a deeply challenging time.

As a mother of two young children, it was especially important that they not see their mom looking sick. Maintaining our routines and shielding them from fear helped me stay grounded, and scalp cooling played a critical role in that stability. It transformed a difficult journey into one that felt more manageable and dignified.

Unfortunately, scalp cooling was **not covered by insurance** and came with significant out-of-pocket cost. I was fortunate to have family support, but many patients do not. **No one should have to sacrifice well-being because of cost.** I continue to question why such a meaningful and evidence-based option remains inaccessible to so many.

I respectfully urge a favorable recommendation on Senate Bill 0272 so that more Maryland cancer patients can benefit from this important and meaningful therapy.

Sincerely,

Alysen Regiec