

Testimony For SB0272

Honorable Senators

Please enter a favorable report for SB0272.

I support requiring certain insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations (collectively known as carriers) that provide coverage for chemotherapy to treat cancer to provide coverage for scalp cooling systems used for the preservation of hair in connection with the chemotherapy treatment. Having cancer is difficult enough without losing one's hair. Chemotherapy often makes one weak and nauseous, but losing one's hair is just an added indignity to the emotional toll of cancer.

Scalp cooling gives people undergoing chemotherapy the option to mitigate hair loss. Hair loss during chemotherapy doesn't just impact how someone looks, it can announce to the world that someone is sick. I believe eligible patients should have the choice to keep their diagnosis private.

Scalp cooling is slowly gaining FDA approval. One example I found is the Amma System by Cooler Heads .

[Cooler Heads | Portable FDA-Cleared Scalp Cooling System](#)

Also, CPT Codes needed for Insurance and Medicare billings related to Mechanical Scalp Cooling, are going into effect January 1, 2026.

[https://www.coolerheads.com/#::~:~:text=The%20American%20Medical%20Association%20\(AMA\)%20has%20assigned%20Category%20I%20CPT%20Codes%20for%20Mechanical%20Scalp%20Cooling%2C%20going%20into%20effect%20January%201%2C%202026.](https://www.coolerheads.com/#::~:~:text=The%20American%20Medical%20Association%20(AMA)%20has%20assigned%20Category%20I%20CPT%20Codes%20for%20Mechanical%20Scalp%20Cooling%2C%20going%20into%20effect%20January%201%2C%202026.)

The University of California at San Francisco has a Cold Cap website that discusses the benefits and costs of Cold Cap care.

[Cold Cap Therapy: Cost, Insurance and Financial Assistance | Patient Education | UCSF Health](#)

It is my understanding that a key to cancer recovery is having a positive outlook, and being able to keep one's hair will certainly improve patients' morale. By passing this bill to nudge the insurance companies to offer this coverage it would go a long way to helping Maryland cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

So please enter a favorable report for SB0272.

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