

Dear Members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 0393, which would require health insurance coverage for scalp cooling, commonly known as cold capping, for patients undergoing chemotherapy.

I am a breast cancer survivor, and during my chemotherapy treatment, I chose to use cold capping to reduce hair loss. While this treatment does not change medical outcomes, it has a profound impact on mental health, dignity, and quality of life during an already overwhelming time. Unfortunately, cold capping was not covered by my insurance, and I was forced to pay \$2,800 out of pocket while also managing the many other financial and emotional burdens of cancer treatment.

Hair loss is one of the most visible and traumatic side effects of chemotherapy. Preserving my hair helped me maintain a sense of normalcy, privacy, and control at a time when so much felt out of my control. While I didn't keep all my hair, I was able to wear a ball cap that covered the bald spots on my scalp. Not needing to consistently wear wigs and to be able to not lose all of my hair greatly helped as I battled cancer. The benefit of cold capping is NOT cosmetic; it is deeply tied to mental health, self-esteem, and overall well-being.

Access to cold capping should not depend on a patient's financial situation. No one fighting cancer should have to choose between emotional well-being and financial stability. HB 0393 would help ensure equitable access to this FDA-cleared treatment and prevent patients from facing unnecessary financial hardship during an already life-altering experience.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 0393 and help make cancer care in Maryland more compassionate, comprehensive, and equitable for all patients.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the health and dignity of Maryland residents.

Best regards,

Elyse Knight

Breast Cancer SURVIVOR!