



February 3, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, Health Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 393 – Health Insurance – Scalp Cooling Systems – Required Coverage

Dear Chair Bagnall:

The Maryland State Council on Cancer Control (Council) respectfully submits this letter of support for House Bill (HB 393), which would require health insurance carriers that provide coverage for chemotherapy to also provide coverage for scalp cooling systems. This legislation aligns with the Council's commitment to advancing patient-centered cancer care and improving quality of life for individuals undergoing cancer treatment.

Improving Quality of Life During Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy-induced hair loss is a common and distressing side effect of cancer treatment that can significantly affect patients' emotional well-being, self-image, and overall quality of life. Scalp cooling systems are an accepted supportive therapy designed to prevent or reduce hair loss during chemotherapy, allowing patients to maintain a sense of normalcy while undergoing treatment.

Established, FDA-Approved Technology

Several scalp cooling systems have received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration since 2017. These systems are now routinely used in oncology care settings and are considered a standard supportive option for patients receiving chemotherapy. Evidence demonstrates that scalp cooling is particularly effective for patients undergoing chemotherapy regimens commonly used to treat breast, ovarian, and lung cancers, though it may also be beneficial for patients with other cancer types.

Cost and Coverage Considerations

A full course of scalp cooling typically costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000 over an 18- to 24-week chemotherapy regimen. While many insurance plans already cover scalp cooling systems, coverage is not universal. As a result, access to this supportive therapy often depends on a patient's insurance coverage or personal financial resources.

Promoting Equitable Access to Supportive Cancer Care

HB 393 would help ensure consistent and equitable access to a relatively low-cost technology that has the potential to meaningfully improve the treatment experience for many cancer patients.



By requiring coverage of scalp cooling systems when chemotherapy is covered, this legislation promotes comprehensive cancer care and reduces disparities in access to supportive therapies.

For these reasons, the Maryland State Council on Cancer Control supports HB 393 and respectfully urges the House Health Committee to give the bill favorable consideration.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to improving cancer care for Marylanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Taofeek Owonikoko".

Taofeek Owonikoko, MD
Chair
Maryland State Council on Cancer Control