

Good afternoon Elected Officials,

My name is Christine Andriani, and in September I was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. When I realized that my course of treatment would involve six months of chemotherapy I began discussing the use of cold cap therapy. After looking at the monthly cost and the duration of my treatment, I determined that cold capping would not be a financially feasible decision for my family. Cancer takes so much from you - your health, your vitality, and in the case of breast cancer part of your femininity. While you can't tell by looking, my long strawberry blonde hair has always been one of my defining features. Losing my hair has felt like losing part of myself. There are many days where I look in the mirror and don't recognize who is looking back at me. Having affordable access to cold capping would have helped make the very difficult process of cancer treatment a little easier, not only for myself but also for my young daughters. My hope is that in the future Maryland cancer patients will have cold capping therapy covered through insurance as part of their standard of care. On behalf of all current and future Maryland cancer thrivers and survivors, thank you for your support of HB1187.