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3/3/2025

Statement in Support of House Bill 1187

My name is Kim LaBrier, and in May of 2024, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. At 48 years old, as a mother of three, I suddenly found myself facing a frightening diagnosis, countless medical decisions, and overwhelming expenses. In July 2024, I underwent a double mastectomy, and by October 24, 2024, I completed chemotherapy. Throughout this journey, I was determined to stay strong—not just for myself, but for my family.

One of the hardest parts of this experience was knowing that my children, ages 18, 15, and 13, would see the physical toll cancer would take on me. I wanted to maintain a sense of normalcy for them, and I knew that losing my hair would be an outward sign of my illness—something they, and others, would see every day. It was important to me that they saw me as their strong, resilient mom, not just as someone battling cancer.

That's why, when I learned about scalp cooling systems as a way to preserve my hair during chemotherapy, I was eager to try it. But I was devastated to learn that my insurance would not cover the cost. With medical bills piling up, the additional expense felt impossible to justify. Despite this financial burden, I chose to proceed with cold cap therapy, knowing it could make a meaningful difference in my journey.

Although I did lose a significant amount of my hair even while using cold cap therapy, I was able to retain around 30-40% of it. This allowed me to hide any bald spots with my own hair, avoiding the need to wear a wig—although I did purchase one, which cost over \$800.

No one should have to choose between preserving their dignity and affording treatment. This is why I strongly support HB 1187 and urge its passage. Insurance coverage for scalp cooling systems would make a significant difference in the lives of countless patients facing chemotherapy. I hope you will consider the impact this bill could have on families like mine and ensure that others have access to this vital option.

Sincerely,

Kimberly James LaBrier