

# MDCSCO

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Thursday, March 6th

*House Bill 1187: Health Insurance – Scalp Cooling Systems – Required Coverage*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

On behalf of the Maryland/District of Columbia Society of Clinical Oncology (MDCSCO), we support *House Bill 1187: Health Insurance—Scalp Cooling Systems—Required Coverage*. This bill requires health insurance 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.

It is well documented that chemotherapy treatment often results in hair loss for patients. Given its highly visible nature, the fear of hair loss is particularly high among women undergoing cancer treatment. Maryland has already recognized the stress and anxiety losing one's hair causes a cancer patient. As such, §15-836 of the Insurance Article requires a health insurer to provide, for an enrollee or insured whose hair loss results from chemotherapy or radiation treatment for cancer, coverage for one hair prosthesis, which may not exceed \$350 and must be prescribed by the oncologist in attendance.

Scalp cooling systems are a method to help patients preserve their hair. This therapy, which involves wearing a cold cap on your head before, during, and after chemotherapy administration, can reduce hair loss during treatment for certain tumors. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved these devices. Recently, New York passed similar legislation mandating insurance coverage for these systems. Maryland can once again be a leader in health insurance coverage.

MDCSCO urges a favorable vote.

**For more information call:**

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