



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB1187 Health Insurance - Scalp Cooling Systems - Required Coverage
Health and Government Operations - Hearing March 6th at 2:00 p.m.**

I come to you to request your support for HB 1187. This bill has received bipartisan support because we recognize that cancer and chemotherapy induced hair loss does not discriminate. Scalp cooling treatment is relatively unknown to the general public, but this is a groundbreaking medical advancement that has been proven to significantly reduce one of the most visible and emotionally distressing side effects of chemotherapy—hair loss. Today, I urge you to support legislation that will expand access to this critical treatment, ensuring that all patients, regardless of their financial means, have the opportunity to preserve their dignity, confidence, and sense of self during one of the most challenging times of their lives.

Chemotherapy is a lifesaving treatment, but it comes at a significant cost—not just financially, but emotionally and physically. For many patients, hair loss is not just a cosmetic issue; it is a visible marker of illness that can impact mental health, self-esteem, and even employment opportunities. Studies have shown that scalp cooling systems, which work by reducing blood flow to hair follicles during chemotherapy, can significantly decrease hair loss, helping patients maintain a sense of normalcy and control.

Despite its proven effectiveness, scalp cooling treatment remains out of reach for too many patients due to high costs and lack of insurance coverage. This is unacceptable. No patient should have to forgo an effective treatment simply because they cannot afford it. We must act now to ensure that private insurance providers recognize scalp cooling as a medically necessary option and provide coverage accordingly.

Supporting legislation for scalp cooling treatment is not just a matter of healthcare—it is a matter of compassion, equity, and empowerment. By passing this legislation, we will not only ease the emotional burden of cancer treatment but also reaffirm our commitment to patient-centered care.

LA TOYA NKONGOLO
Legislative District 31
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Judiciary Committee



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New York State recently passed a similar bill, and my goal is for Maryland to lead the way as the next state to follow suit.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report for HB 1187.