

Subject: Support for House Bill 1187 – Health Insurance Coverage for Scalp Cooling Systems

Dear Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 1187, which mandates that health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and managed care organizations providing chemotherapy coverage also cover scalp cooling systems. This legislation is vital for enhancing the quality of life and mental well-being of cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Hair loss is a common side effect of chemotherapy, affecting greater than 65% of patients. This can lead to significant distress, impacting self-esteem, mental health, and social interactions. Scalp cooling systems, also known as cold caps, have been clinically proven to reduce chemotherapy-induced hair loss by cooling the scalp before, during, and after treatment.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved automated scalp cooling devices for preventing chemotherapy-induced alopecia in patients with solid tumor cancers.

However, the high cost of these devices often makes them inaccessible to many patients who could benefit from their use. By requiring insurance coverage for scalp cooling systems, House Bill 1187 ensures equitable access to this essential medical intervention, allowing patients to maintain a sense of normalcy during their treatment journey.

Preserving a patient's dignity and mental health is as important as treating the disease itself. No patient should have to choose between financial stability and the possibility of maintaining their hair during chemotherapy. This bill aligns with University of Maryland's commitment to advancing patient-centered healthcare and improving the overall quality of life for individuals battling cancer.

I urge you and your colleagues in the Maryland General Assembly to support and pass this crucial legislation. Providing insurance coverage for scalp cooling systems is a compassionate and necessary step toward comprehensive cancer care.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the well-being of Maryland's residents. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide further insight or testimony in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Nick Jaidar, MHA, FACHE
Senior Director of Oncology Operations & Business Development
Oncology Faculty Practice Administrator
University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center
410-328-2632 | nicholasjaidar@umm.edu
www.umgccc.org