

HB0393/SB0272

Favorable

Rossalynn Abbott Ripper  
1303 Cape St. Claire Road  
Annapolis, MD 21409

March 24, 2026

Dear Senator Gile, Delegate Nkongolo, Madam Chair and the House Health Committee,

My name is Rossalynn Ripper. Although currently in active treatment for HER2+ breast cancer, I successfully completed three months of chemotherapy in May 2025. Through scalp cooling, I was able to keep all my hair. I have spent the last year advocating for Marylanders to have access to scalp cooling and have it covered by insurance.

Receiving a breast cancer diagnosis is a life altering event. My initial thoughts were wondering if I was strong enough mentally and physically to get through cancer, if I could afford it, because even with health insurance, a cancer diagnosis is a financial burden. I worried about how I would maintain normalcy at my job and for my son. The most painful reality was that I was going to lose my hair. I was completely devastated. I learned that I would be a candidate for scalp cooling based on my chemo regimen, and that I would have a chance to keep my hair.

I wasn't prepared to learn that scalp cooling was not covered by my insurance and that I would have to pay for it myself. Fortunately, I was able to pay \$2,400 for the cost of my scalp cooling treatments.

We as cancer patients go through so much. Being able to keep my hair during chemotherapy through scalp cooling, changed the trajectory of my overall cancer journey and made a meaningful difference in my life. It's not just about hair. Keeping your hair during chemo by using scalp cooling provides patients with hope and privacy, it allows one to maintain their identity and improves the mental well-being of those going through chemo.

Now is the time to pass this meaningful legislation:

- We took the feedback offered from failed House Bill 1187 in 2025 and made the necessary changes requested.
- In January 2026, the Maryland Health Care Commission submitted a mandate study of HB 1187, which showed no significant financial impact on the insurance companies for this treatment, and that it can improve the mental and social wellbeing of chemo patients.
- The American Medical Association has established new Category I CPT® codes for mechanical scalp cooling, which took effect on January 1, 2026. The establishment

of these codes set up a billing pathway for medical institutions to bill insurance companies for scalp cooling.

- Scalp cooling systems, like the Paxman Scalp Cooling System, which I used, is FDA-cleared

In closing, scalp cooling is a game-changer for those undergoing chemo. I am a beneficiary of that. My hope is that we can make scalp cooling accessible and affordable for all Marylanders. I respectfully ask the House Health Committee to pass this impactful legislation. My thoughts are with all Marylanders dealing with a cancer diagnosis. Thank you, Delegates, for your time.