



March 3, 2021

Representative Daire Rendon, Chair
House Committee on Insurance
Room N-791
Cora B. Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chair Rendon and Members of the Committee,

The Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology (MSHO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) strongly support cancer treatment fairness and urge the committee to pass House Bill 4354 out of the House Insurance Committee. This bipartisan legislation would help address the unacceptable barriers to cancer care that occur when undue cost sharing requirements are imposed upon individuals for oral anticancer medications.

Dedicated to promoting exemplary care for patients with cancer and/or blood disorders through advocacy, education and research, MSHO represents over 2,000 healthcare professionals in private practice, academic medical centers and hospital-based clinics throughout the state. ASCO is the world's leading professional society representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

Oncologists have options to treat cancer patients with oral and other self-administered anticancer medications that provide clinical advantages over traditional intravenous or injected cancer drugs due to the strides made in cancer treatment. In some instances, oral anticancer drugs may represent the best—or only—treatment option for patients with certain cancers. Unfortunately, some health plans impose significantly higher cost sharing requirements on cancer patients for oral anticancer drugs than for intravenous or injected drugs. The cost sharing burdens imposed on patients for oral anticancer drugs can create insurmountable financial barriers to optimal treatment, creating insurmountable barriers to life-saving treatment.

Michigan is one of only seven states that have not enacted laws to provide their cancer patients with cancer treatment fairness. MSHO and ASCO encourage you to pass HB 4354. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Mary Kay Makarewicz at MSHO at mmakarewicz@msho.org or Jennifer Brunelle at ASCO at Jennifer.Brunelle@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anas Al-Janadi".

Anas Al-Janadi, MD
President
Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Bertagnolli, MD".

Monica Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology