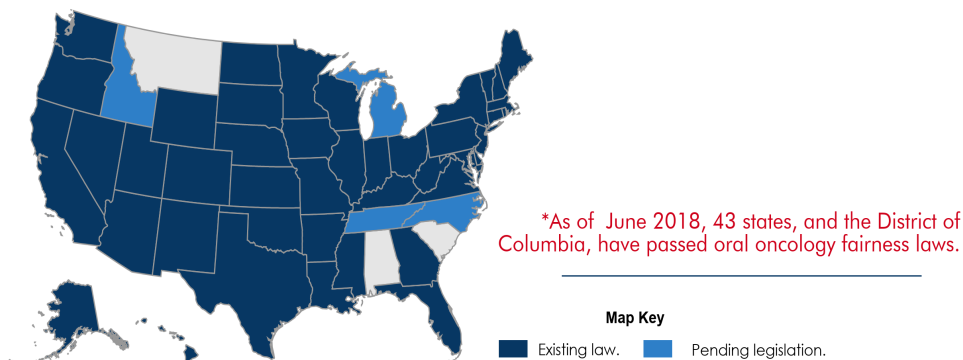


# Legislation Would Increase Access & Offer Hope to Michigan Cancer Patients

## Oral Anticancer Fairness Laws & Pending Legislation

State Oral Anticancer Fairness Laws & Pending Legislation



Michigan is one of just seven states that has yet to take steps to provide an important protection for people living with cancer.

Passage of legislation, in Michigan, that eliminates the disparity in cost-sharing between oral and intravenous (IV) anti-cancer medications will increase access to treatment for cancer patients and bring the state in line with the 43 others, and the District of Columbia (DC), that have passed similar bills.

## What is the problem?

The way we treat cancer is changing, with oral anti-cancer medications playing an increasingly important role. However, despite the many benefits offered by these innovative treatments, a patient's cost-share for oral therapies is often much higher than those for IV treatments due to the outdated benefit designs used by health plans. This disparity can have a negative impact on adherence to treatment, even preventing some patients from accessing treatment, at all.

## What is the impact on Michiganians?

In 2018, approximately 56,590 people will be diagnosed with cancer, in Michigan, and 21,380 are expected to die from the disease. [2]

The disparity in out-of-pocket costs between oral and IV anti-cancer treatments is an unnecessary barrier for these patients, on top of the stress of receiving a cancer diagnosis and undergoing treatment.

### FACT

This is not a matter of choice or convenience. For many patients, oral therapies are the only option to treat their cancer. Out-of-pocket costs should be affordable to ensure patients can access the therapy that will give them the best chance of beating their disease. According to a recent study published in JAMA Oncology, oral parity laws have been effective in increasing the number of \$0 co-pays while having no effect on health plans in terms of increased costs.[1]



## What is the solution?

Passage of oral parity legislation in Michigan will help level the playing field for cancer patients, ensuring health plans provide cost-sharing equity, for both IV-administered, and oral anti-cancer treatments, alike.

This legislation will give patients access to therapies offering the greatest potential benefit, while also helping safeguard the financial stability of patients, and their families. The bill does not mandate coverage of oral anti-cancer drugs and applies only to those plans that already include cancer care coverage.

To date, 43 states and the District of Columbia (DC), have passed cancer treatment fairness laws. Lawmakers here in Michigan can help cancer patients by doing the same.

[1] JAMA Oncology, December 2017. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaoncology/article-abstract/2661763?resultClick=1>

[2] American Cancer Society (ACS), Cancer Facts & Figures 2018.