Legislation Would Increase Access & Offer Hope to Michigan Cancer Patients

Oral Anticancer Fairness Laws & Pending Legislation

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*As of June 2018, 43 states, and the District of Columbia, have passed oral oncology fairness laws.

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treatments, a patient’s cost-share for oral therapies is often much higher than those for IV treatments due to the outdated benefit designs used by health plans.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 solution?

Passage of 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.

What is the impact on Michiganders?

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

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.
