



December 12, 2019

RE: Cancer Drug Parity Act. SUPPORT

Dear Senators Moran and Smith:

On behalf of Triage Cancer, I am writing in support of the Cancer Drug Parity Act, which will reduce healthcare costs for cancer patients by requiring insurance companies to cover orally administered cancer drugs in the same way as intravenous (IV) chemotherapy.

As patient advocates and leaders in the health and cancer communities, it is our mission to help create change by supporting legislation that offers better quality of life for individuals affected by cancer. We strongly believe this bill would help to relieve the financial toxicity of a cancer diagnosis, by holding insurance companies accountable for unbalanced out-of-pocket costs. Furthermore, the option to receive medications that can be self-administered outside of a hospital, in one's own home or even at work, could exponentially increase quality of life and decrease other burdens; loss of work income, transportation, cost of hospital stays, etc.

The Cancer Drug Parity Act would prevent insurers from covering oral and self-administered medicines at different cost sharing rates than traditional IV chemotherapy. It would not mandate that healthcare plans provide chemotherapy coverage, but rather only apply to plans already covering chemotherapy. As leaders in the community who educate people on how to navigate their insurance coverage, we know that few people understand the financial burden of a cancer diagnosis until they are having trouble simply getting affordable oral medication, for example.

We appreciate you introducing this bill and will continue to support your efforts on this issue, as we advocate for better patient care together. **The Cancer Drug Parity Act** will reduce healthcare costs for cancer patients by lawfully enforcing insurance companies to cover orally administered cancer drugs in the same way as traditional intravenous (IV) chemotherapy. **For these reasons, we respectfully support The Cancer Drug Parity Act.**

If you have any inquiries regarding our position, please contact me at 310.489.0856 or JM@TriageCancer.org. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Morales".

Joanna Fawzy Morales, Esq.
CEO, Triage Cancer

... beyond diagnosis