

Steven Sepe

From: Anne Donovan <donovan020213@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2026 5:47 PM
To: Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.
Cc: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Support for H7537 mandatory coverage for scalp cooling systems

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Dear Representative Giraldo

I am writing to respectfully ask for your support of House Bill H7537, which would require mandatory insurance coverage for scalp cooling systems for Rhode Island patients undergoing chemotherapy.

For many individuals facing cancer treatment, hair loss is not simply a cosmetic issue. It is a deeply personal and visible reminder of illness that can affect emotional wellbeing, privacy, professional life, and overall quality of life during an already vulnerable time. Scalp cooling systems are an evidence-based intervention shown to significantly reduce chemotherapy-induced hair loss for many patients.

Currently, access to scalp cooling is inconsistent and often cost-prohibitive. Patients may face out-of-pocket costs totaling thousands of dollars — an added financial burden on top of medical bills, time away from work, and other treatment-related expenses. This creates inequity in care, where only those who can afford it have access to an option that can preserve dignity and normalcy during treatment.

Mandatory coverage would:

- Improve quality of life and emotional wellbeing for cancer patients
- Reduce financial toxicity during treatment
- Promote equitable access to supportive oncology care
- Align Rhode Island with other states that have already enacted similar protections

Scalp cooling does not alter the course of treatment or reduce the effectiveness of chemotherapy. It simply offers patients a choice — one that allows many to maintain privacy, reduce stigma, and retain a sense of control during a profoundly difficult chapter of their lives.

Rhode Island has long demonstrated leadership in patient-centered healthcare policy. Passing H7537 would continue that tradition and send a clear message that we support the whole patient — not just the disease.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of House Bill H7537.

Thank you for your time and service to our state.

Sincerely,

Anne Donovan
East Greenwich, RI