

Attention: Steven Sepe, Clerk
House Health and Human Services

March 2, 2026

RE: **BILL H 7537**

Dear Chair Donovan and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to respectfully urge your support for **Bill #7537** for the proposed legislation requiring health insurance coverage for scalp cooling therapy for patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Scalp cooling is a clinically recognized treatment that can significantly reduce chemotherapy-induced hair loss. While hair loss may be view as a cosmetic side-effect, for many patients it is deeply tied to emotion well-being, identity, DIGNITY, and privacy during a very difficult time in their lives. The ability to keep their hair while fighting this horrible disease reduces anxiety and depression, maintains normalcy and supports overall mental health. Unfortunately, scalp cooling is not covered by insurance. The cost is out of reach for most.

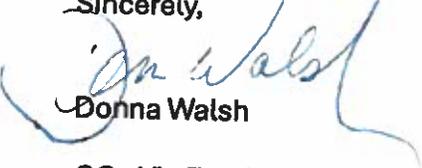
I personally have 4 friends were diagnosed with breast cancer in the past 12 months alone. Only one of them was able to scrape up enough money for scalp cooling. It was so much more depressing for 3 out of 4 women. They, of course, are still feeling and seeing the effects of chemotherapy when looking in the mirror. The other woman that was able to proceed with scalp cooling has been able to keep her hair, keep working, while maintaining her positive attitude toward recovery. I can't tell you what a wonderful, healing difference it is making in her journey. My heart breaks for the others that try to hide away and avoid going out in public. Please know how this psychological distress can hinder their treatment progress compared to the person who was able to utilize scalp cooling. Please don't let those with cancer diagnoses give up. They need to keep up their spirits to fight and to look as healthy as possible during treatments!

I respectfully ask you to support and advance legislation that mandates insurance coverage for scalp cooling therapy so that all patients, regardless of income, can benefit from this important supportive, compassionate and practical treatment.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to improving lives of those facing cancer. I would be grateful for the opportunity to see this issue prioritized and addressed.

Other states have been successful, please help Rhode Island join them.

Sincerely,


Donna Walsh

CC: Via Email to HHHS Committee Members and State Representatives