

Dear Members of the Rhode Island Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill S2455, which would require insurance companies to cover the cost of scalp cooling systems for patients undergoing chemotherapy.

I recently completed chemotherapy in January after facing breast cancer for the second time. While I am deeply grateful to say that I have beaten this disease again, I want to speak to the emotional toll that treatment takes in ways that are often overlooked.

For me, losing my hair was one of the most difficult parts of chemotherapy. It was not simply about appearance. My hair is a part of my identity, and losing it felt like losing a piece of myself. It made it impossible to feel comfortable in my own skin during an already terrifying and vulnerable time.

Scalp cooling gave me the opportunity to hold onto something that made me feel a little more like myself, but it came at a significant financial burden. I paid \$1500 out of pocket for my cooling cap and received absolutely no reimbursement from my insurance company.

I do not understand why this is not considered part of cancer treatment. Hair loss caused by chemotherapy is not a cosmetic choice. It is a direct side effect of medically necessary treatment. Patients do not choose this. It is being taken from us.

No one battling cancer should have to decide whether preserving a sense of dignity and identity is something they can afford. Many women facing this disease simply do not have the financial means to pay these costs out of pocket, and they should not be denied access because of that.

Please support this bill so that future cancer patients in Rhode Island can focus on healing instead of worrying about an additional financial and emotional burden.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and compassion.

Sincerely,
Angela Fougere