

April 12, 2026

Honorable Chair Murray and Members of the Health & Human Services Committee:

I am submitting written testimony in **strong support of S2455- the Scalp Cooling bill.**

Very few people in our communities have been untouched by cancer...a spouse, parent, sibling, child, friend, neighbor or colleague. In 2024, our then 22-year-old was diagnosed with breast cancer, it is not something anyone would have imagined, she was a college graduate starting her nursing career.

Hearing the word Cancer and treatment options, including scalp cooling therapy was overwhelming. I can't imagine going through this as a single parent, not scalp cooling option because **one can't afford it or unsure how to navigate options. During such a traumatic, daunting and difficult time in a patient's life, we can do better.**

Requiring insurance coverage for scalp cooling treatment during chemotherapy promotes more equitable access.

- ***It is NOT a luxury, it is NOT cosmetic treatment, it is NOT just hair but a compassionate necessary step to preserve dignity, mental health and quality of life for patients fighting this disease.***
- *It is aligning treatment with cancer care modern standards commonly covered by health insurance, such as palliative care, physical therapy, counseling & nutritional support ensuring that patients receive comprehensive and holistic care.*

Chemo-induced hair loss is one of the most distressing side effects of cancer treatment, with significant impacts on a patient's sense of identity, privacy, and emotional well-being.

- Studies published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Network have found that "patients rank hair loss among the most psychologically challenging aspects of treatment, with improved hair preservation linked to better quality of life and body image".
- National Cancer Institute Data also indicates that "some patients may decline chemo due to hair loss concerns".
- The [National Library of Medicine's](#) Chemotherapy-Induced Alopecia by Docetaxel: Prevalence, Treatment and Prevention indicates that **"The fear of chemotherapy-induced alopecia can cause up to 14% of patients to consider rejecting the recommended optimal life-saving cancer treatment "**. Together, they highlight that the significant impact of hair loss during chemo treatment is deeply personal and extends beyond appearance alone.

It is of significance to note that for 2026, the **American Medical Association released three permanent scalp cooling category One CPT codes** marking a major step forward in patient care. *Category I status reflects strong clinical evidence and recognition as standard care for established medical procedures.*

- These codes help ensure more consistent FDA-cleared Scalp Cooling System insurance coverage and reimbursement for chemo patients from both public and commercial payers, improving access to this important supportive therapy.
- **Scalp cooling is included in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.**

We cannot solve every challenge facing patients today, but we can remove this one barrier. Coverage for scalp cooling is a tangible step toward more compassionate, comprehensive cancer care."

Let's make RI state #5 in the US to pass this legislation. NY, LA passed laws effective 1/1/26. MD and WV bills are on way to their governors. Mass, Ohio, CA and others are working on similar legislation.

I respectfully urge the committee to report S2455 favorably.

Thank you,

Christine Imbriglio

East Greenwich RI