

**SCALP COOLING INSURANCE COVERAGE
BILL S2455**

Dear Senate HHS Committee Chair, and Committee Members:

I just moved to Arizona (as I recently retired), having lived in Rhode Island for 38 years. I am writing to ask you to support requiring insurance coverage for scalp cooling treatment.

Scalp cooling (often called cold capping) helps to reduce hair loss from chemotherapy. I practiced periodontics in Rhode Island for almost 40 years and was diagnosed with uterine cancer in February 2021. My cancer had metastasized so that in addition to surgery, I also needed chemotherapy.

The chemotherapy drugs I was prescribed would 100% of the time cause hair loss. As a private person (this is the first time I am publicly speaking about my cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy journey), I did not want to tell my patients and friends about my cancer diagnosis. In addition to the physical pain and side effects associated with chemotherapy, there is a significant emotional and mental toll you experience when you go through cancer treatment as you can well imagine. CANCER is a word that was whispered when I was growing up.

Fortunately for me, I could afford scalp cooling and retained most of my hair and dignity during the 6 months I went through chemotherapy. I thankfully did not have to tell anyone about my cancer diagnosis. The cost of scalp cooling was very expensive (and has gotten even more so over the past few years) and I know many people that cannot afford scalp cooling.

I cannot think of one reason why anyone would not support this bill and respectfully ask you to support and pass this most important bill. We all know someone who has been touched by cancer.

Sincerely,

Denise Shapiro, DDS, MA