



Cancer Drug Parity Act of 2017

H.R. 1409

Request

ONS urges Representatives to cosponsor H.R. 1409, the Cancer Drug Parity Act, introduced by Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ) and Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY). **ONS urges Senators to consider introducing a bipartisan companion bill** in the United States Senate.

Background

Under current law, most intravenous (IV) treatments are routinely covered under the medical benefit component of a health insurance plan, while orally-administered anti-cancer medications are usually covered under the prescription drug component, which often results in a considerable disparity in patient out-of-pocket costs. The “Cancer Drug Parity Act” would remove this disparity, ensuring that medication cost is not a factor in physician and patient decisions. This is especially important as oral chemotherapy is becoming a more common standard of care for cancer patients and many of these oral chemotherapy drugs do not have IV/injectable equivalents. Although 43 states and the District of Columbia have enacted cancer drug parity laws, federal legislation is necessary to ensure that the approximately 150 million people who have large employer group health plans are protected. Such self-insured group health plans are governed by the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and outside state jurisdiction.

Bill Summary

The legislation would require a group or individual health plan providing benefits with respect to anticancer medications administered by a health care provider to provide no less favorable cost sharing for prescribed, patient-administered anticancer medications used to kill, slow, or prevent the growth of cancerous cells and that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Such coverage may be subject to the same cost-sharing applicable to anticancer medications administered by a healthcare provider under the plan. However, the bill would prohibit a health plan from imposing an increase in out-of-pocket costs, reclassifying benefits with respect to anticancer medications, or applying more restrictive limitations on prescribed orally- or intravenously-administered or injected anticancer medications.

Support

The Cancer Drug Parity Act is supported by more than 30 organizations including the Oncology Nursing Society, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Susan G. Komen, and Zero – The End of Prostate Cancer.

Contact

For more information on the bill or to sign on as a co-sponsor, please contact Robert.Butora@mail.house.gov (Rep. Lance) or Erin.Meegan@mail.house.gov (Rep. Higgins).

For additional information, please contact Donna (Dede) Sweeney, ONS Director of Government Affairs at dsweeney@ons.org.

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ARIZONA

Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]
Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [D-AZ-3]

CALIFORNIA

Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]

COLORADO

Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]

CONNECTICUT

Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]

FLORIDA

Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]
Rep. Mast, Brian J. [R-FL-18]
Rep. Wasserman Schultz [D-FL-23]

GEORGIA

Rep. Carter, Buddy [R-GA-1]
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]

ILLINOIS

Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]

INDIANA

Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]

IOWA

Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]

KANSAS

Rep. Yoder, Kevin [R-KS-3]

KENTUCKY

Rep. Guthrie, Brett [R-KY-2]
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]

MAINE

Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]

MARYLAND

Rep. Cummings, Elijah [D-MD-7]
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]

MASSACHUSETTS

Rep. Clark, Katherine [D-MA-5]
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph [D-MA-4]
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]

MICHIGAN

Rep. Bishop, Mike [R-MI-8]
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]
Rep. Mitchell, Paul [R-MI-10]

MINNESOTA

Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]

MISSISSIPPI

Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]
Rep. Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]
Rep. Palazzo, Steven [R-MS-4]

MISSOURI

Rep. Long, Billy [R-MO-7]

NEBRASKA

Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]

NEW JERSEY

Rep. Frelinghuysen, R. [R-NJ-11]
Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7]*
Rep. MacArthur, Tom [R-NJ-3]

NEW MEXICO

Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]

NEW YORK

Rep. Donovan, Daniel [R-NY-11]
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]*
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]
Rep. Maloney, Sean P. [D-NY-18]
Rep. Slaughter, Louise [D-NY-25]

NORTH CAROLINA

Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]

NORTH DAKOTA

Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]

OHIO

Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]

OREGON

Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]

PENNSYLVANIA

Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13]
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]
Rep. Dent, Charles W. [R-PA-15]
Rep. Murphy, Tim [R-PA-18]
Rep. Smucker, Lloyd [R-PA-16]

RHODE ISLAND

Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]

TENNESSEE

Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]

TEXAS

Rep. Flores, Bill [R-TX-17]
Rep. McCaul, Michael [R-TX-10]
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]*
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]

VIRGINIA

Rep. Comstock, B. [R-VA-10]
Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]
Rep. Wittman, Robert [R-VA-1]

WASHINGTON

Rep. Kildee, Derek [D-WA-6]

WEST VIRGINIA

Rep. McKinley, David [R-WV-1]

WISCONSIN

Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]
Rep. Sensenbrenner, J. [R-WI-5]

Senate -- In addition, please note the following Senators supported the legislation (S. 1566) during the last Congress (114th Congress). The bill has not yet been reintroduced in the Senate.

ALASKA

Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

COLORADO

Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]

CONNECTICUT

Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]

DELAWARE

Sen. Coons, Christopher [D-DE]

LOUISIANA

Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]

MAINE

Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]

MASSACHUSETTS

Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]

MINNESOTA

Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]*
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

MISSISSIPPI

Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]

NEW YORK

Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]

OHIO

Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

OREGON

Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

RHODE ISLAND

Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]

WISCONSIN

Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

*LEAD BILL SPONSORS