



American Cancer Society
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Insurance and Real Estate Committee
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Testimony

SB. No. 7- An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage Of Orally And Intravenously Administered Medications

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network supports SB 7, which would provide for cost parity between intravenously administered therapeutic medications and orally administered therapeutic medications for chronic diseases, including cancer.

Many administered medications are injected through an IV (intravenous) line into a person's vein, however thanks to progress in chronic disease treatments, there are numerous types of medications that can be taken orally as a liquid, tablet, or capsule. Oral medications do not need to be injected into the body, and medications taken by mouth are often as strong as the other forms and work just as well.

While quality of life would improve for many patients, the cost differential between orally administered medications and IV injected medications administered at a hospital, physician's office or clinic is a significant barrier. Most insurance plans classify IV medications as a medical benefit requiring only office co-pays for each treatment and not an additional cost for the IV drug itself.

However many orally administered medications are currently classified as a prescription drug and placed on a specialty tier of a plan's formulary covered under a pharmacy benefit. In most cases, the cost to treat a patient using oral medications is often actually less than the alternative IV therapy because there are no associated medical costs—visits to hospitals, equipment use, etc.

Beyond the obvious cost issue, it is also a quality of life issue. We urge a favorable report from this committee on SB 7.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. ACS CAN works to encourage elected officials and candidates to make cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people extraordinary power to fight cancer with the training and tools they need to make their voices heard.

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