



American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network
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Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 10, 2016
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Testimony

RE: S.B. No. 374 - AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH INSURERS FROM RESTRICTING OR REDUCING COVERED BENEFITS FOR INSUREDS DIAGNOSED WITH A TERMINAL CONDITION.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) supports SB 374 AN ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH INSURERS FROM RESTRICTING OR REDUCING COVERED BENEFITS FOR INSUREDS DIAGNOSED WITH A TERMINAL CONDITION, 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. As the nation’s leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government.

This bill would prohibit the restriction or reduction of covered benefits for those diagnosed with a terminal condition. During fiscally challenging times and as healthcare costs escalate there is an understandable emphasis cost effectiveness as well as pressure to maximize efficiencies across the health care spectrum when possible.

However, the possibility of denying coverage to terminal patients is a deeply troubling development that is counter to medical ethics and needlessly exposes patients to increased suffering.

This common sense measure preserves the physician-patient decision-making process as a critical component of proper care. The bill rightfully ensures that the focus remains on ensuring the patient’s physical, spiritual, emotional, and family needs are met in order to provide for the support and care needed to have the very best quality of life possible.

We respectfully urge a Joint Favorable report.

Bryte Johnson
Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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