



December 19, 2013

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken and Senator Kirk:

The Patients Equal Access Coalition (PEAC) is a patient-focused coalition of organizations representing patients, health care professionals, care centers, and industry collaboratively joined together to ensure that cancer patients have equality of access (and equality of insurance coverage) to all approved anticancer regimens including, but not limited to oral and intravenous drugs, injections, surgery, radiation, transplantation, etc. PEAC believes that every cancer patient should have access to the anticancer regimens recommended by their physicians and should not suffer from cost discrimination based on the type of therapy provided or the mechanism of delivery.

PEAC endorses the Cancer Treatment Parity Act and extends its gratitude and appreciation for your leadership in introducing this legislation. This bill is a critical step toward improving access to anticancer treatments by requiring insurance companies to cover patient-administered and physician-administered anticancer drugs at the same cost to patients.

As the science surrounding cancer treatment continues to improve, the number of chemotherapy drugs that can be self-administered by patients continues to grow. In some cases, they may be the only drug available to treat a specific type of cancer. However, insurance coverage policies for these drugs have not kept up with scientific advancement and innovation. Patients who rely on self-injectables or chemotherapy pills find themselves spending as much as \$50,000 a year out of pocket because they receive the drugs from a pharmacy rather than in a doctor's office.

The Cancer Treatment Parity Act will dramatically improve the lives of cancer patients. Patients who previously could not afford these treatments will be able to access their life-saving effects. It will also make cancer treatments more practical for patients living in rural and underserved areas by reducing the need to drive long distances for a nurse or doctor to administer treatment.

On behalf of PEAC, thank you very much for introducing the Cancer Treatment Parity Act and helping improve patients' access to lifesaving treatments. PEAC's advocates look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives for a quick passage and enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Patients Equal Access Coalition

Members include:

AIM at Melanoma
American Society of Hematology
Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation
Association of Community Cancer Centers

Astellas Pharma US
Cancer Support Community
Celgene
Community Oncology Alliance
Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Genentech, Inc.
Glaxo Smith Kline
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
International Myeloma Foundation
Karmanos Cancer Institute
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Millennium: The Takeda Oncology Company
National Brain Tumor Society
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Patient Services, Incorporated
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Susan G. Komen Advocacy Alliance
The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center-James Cancer Hospital and Richard J Solove Institute
Zero – The End of Prostate Cancer