



March 10, 2017

Honorable Leonard Lance
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of H.R. 1409, the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act

Dear Representative Lance:

On behalf of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), I write to thank you for introducing H.R. 1409, the Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act. H.R. 1409 would require health insurance plans that cover traditional chemotherapy provide equally favorable coverage for orally administered anticancer medications. This legislation will help ensure equality of coverage for all anti-cancer regimens and protect cancer patients' ability to access life-saving medications.

As you know, over one and a half million new cancer cases are diagnosed each year, with more than 500,000 cancer-related deaths annually. Oncology nurses are the health professionals involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and managing the associated side effects cancer patients may experience. Every day, we see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. The Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act will help reduce financial barriers to cancer care and protect individuals with cancer from undue cost sharing requirements for oral cancer drugs.

ONS is a professional organization of over 39,000 registered nurses and other healthcare providers dedicated to excellence in patient care, education, research, and administration in oncology nursing. ONS members are a diverse group of professionals who represent a variety of professional roles, practice settings, and subspecialty practice areas. Oncology nurses are leaders in the healthcare arena, committed to continuous learning and leading the transformation of cancer care by advocating for high-quality care for people with cancer.

Please know that ONS and its members very much appreciate your leadership on the issue of access to cancer treatment. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to reduce and prevent suffering from cancer. We would be happy to discuss ways in which ONS may be of assistance in this endeavor, and would encourage you to contact Alec Stone, MA, MPA, ONS Director of Health Policy, at astone@ons.org. We look forward to engaging in an ongoing dialogue to address issues of importance to our cancer patients and ways in which we can promote public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Schneider, PhD, RN, AOCN®, FAAN
President
Oncology Nursing Society