

October 25, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

**Re: A38-A (Assemblymember L. Rosenthal)/S2063-A (Senator Stavisky)** Relates to the preservation of hair during chemotherapy

Dear Governor Hochul-

On behalf of the American Nurses Association – New York (ANA-NY) and the Oncology Nursing Society – New York City (ONS-NYC), we write to support A38-A/S2063-A, which would amend New York State Insurance Law to require health insurance coverage for scalp cooling systems for the preservation of hair during cancer chemotherapy treatments.

The members of ANA-NY and ONS-NYC are on the frontlines of patient care and access to treatment and services. Our members are the single most important influence in the delivery and management of care for patients. We work tirelessly to identify and meet the needs of individuals, their families and the communities where we live. We see firsthand the devastating effects of cancer treatment and know that our patients continued care and treatment can be negatively impacted by the side effects of the treatment, like the loss of hair. For our patients that lose their hair, there is a constant reminder of the fight they are facing. This constant reminder can be debilitating for some patients and will impact their ability to fight this vicious disease.

Our members have seen the incredible advances that have been made in technology and treatment protocols over the years. Unfortunately, insurance coverage has not kept pace with these advances. Scalp cooling is a new technology that can help to reduce and prevent chemotherapy-induced hair loss. Chemotherapy is designed to attack cancer cells, but it also kills other cells in the body, which can include those in hair roots. The scalp cooling technology restricts blood vessels in the scalp, limiting the amount of chemo that reached the hair follicle cells, which in turn can help to reduce or eliminate the hair loss.

We strongly encourage you to sign this legislation into law so that our patients can better afford access to a technology that will help them combat one of the most difficult side effects of chemotherapy. We strongly believe that minimizing the side effects of chemotherapy will help our patients in their fight against cancer and remove the visual reminder of the fight they are in.

Sincerely,



Jeanine Santelli, Ph.D., RN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN  
Executive Director, ANA-NY



Beau Amaya, MSN, RN, OCN  
President, ONS-NYC