

ANTHONY M. DeLUCA, MEMBER

115 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202032
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2032
PHONE: (717) 783-1011
FAX: (717) 772-9937

7205 SALTSBURG ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15235
PHONE: (412) 793-2448
FAX: (412) 793-7495



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

INSURANCE, CHAIRMAN
GAME & FISHERIES

DEMOCRATIC POLICY
LEGISLATIVE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

CAUCUSES

ARTHRITIS & OSTEOPOROSIS CAUCUS
AUTISM CAUCUS
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS
COAL CAUCUS
FIREFIGHTERS' & EMERGENCY
SERVICES, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
STEEL CAUCUS

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 2, 2011
To: All House Members
From: Representative Tony DeLuca
Subject: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: Cranial Hair Vacuum Prosthesis Coverage

In the near future, I will be re-introducing legislation (former HB 641 from the 2009-10 Session) that will require insurance companies to provide coverage for the cost of a medically necessary cranial hair vacuum prosthesis when prescribed by a physician for a person who sustains hair loss as a result of alopecia totalis (all head hair) or alopecia universalis (all body hair).

Alopecia is an unpredictable autoimmune disease where the person's immune system attacks their hair follicles. As a result, the individual's hair begins to fall out in large clumps. Hair can grow back in or fall out again at any time, as the disease course is different for each person. It is believed that genetics may be a factor in triggering this autoimmune reaction in conjunction with a virus or particular substance contact.

Alopecia affects approximately two percent of the population overall, including more than 4.7 million people in the United States alone. Alopecia is a condition that does not discriminate and it can have a major psychological impact on a person's life. It can occur at any age, and affects males and females equally. Alopecia patients are immediately confronted with the drastic change in their appearance. The implications of the disease alter how they view themselves and how society views them. Hair prosthesis can alleviate some of anguish and self-esteem loss felt by Alopecia sufferers. However, the procedures/products can often times be unaffordable for our constituents with this condition.

If you would like to cosponsor this important bill, please contact Stacia R. Longenecker at slongene@pahouse.net or via phone 787-4437.

AMD/srl