

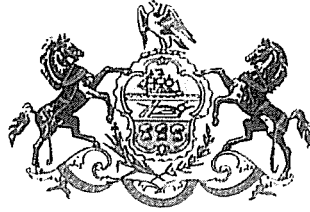
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MAR 15 2012

March 15, 2012

To: All Senators

From: Senator Robert M. Tomlinson

Subject: Co-Sponsorship Memo #37

Please join me in cosponsoring legislation that would allow cancer patients, in consultation with their physician, to be permitted to select their best treatment option. Treatment options for patients should not be limited on the basis of how the therapy is administered.

For years, the mainstay of cancer treatment has been intravenous chemotherapy. This treatment is typically covered as part of an insured's medical benefit. As the science of treating cancer has progressed, oral chemotherapy has emerged as an alternative treatment option.

Oral chemotherapy is a significant and growing option for the cancer patient. Oral chemotherapy is typically covered as part of the prescription drug benefit. This fragmented coverage means a patient normally will experience significantly different out of pocket costs based on how their treatment is administered.

My legislation requires health insurers to provide coverage for orally administered chemotherapy on a basis that is at least as favorable as an insured's co-pay; coinsurance or deductibles are for intravenous or injected chemotherapy treatment.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Mary Walmer of my office at 787-5072 or mwalmer@pasen.gov.

RMT/mc