



March 3, 2021

TO: House Insurance Committee

FROM: Ken Fletcher, Director of Advocacy

RE: Support for House Bill 4345

The American Lung Association believes all lung cancer patients need access to quality and affordable healthcare coverage. Therefore, the American Lung Association in Michigan supports House Bill 4345 to help patients afford the medications they need to treat cancer.

Lung cancer is the nation's leading cancer killer of both women and men in the United States. In 2018, 5,456 Michigan residents died from lung cancer.

Traditional anti-cancer medications are administered intravenously and are covered as a medical benefit, which typically requires minimal co-payment from the patient as a covered service. Oral anti-cancer medications, however, are considered as pharmacy benefits, which often require higher out-of-pocket costs through coinsurance (requiring patients to pay a percentage of the overall cost of the prescription therapy).

HB 4345 would protect patients against higher financial burdens and restrictions when seeking oral anti-cancer medications that may be more appropriate for their care. Oral cancer therapies are less invasive, require fewer trips to the doctor's office or hospital, and can be taken at home (i.e., critical for rural areas). Oral treatment parity may also strengthen treatment adherence among patients.

The Lung Association in Michigan urges you to improve the affordability of care for lung cancer patients by passing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Fletcher".

Ken Fletcher
Director of Advocacy
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