

ILLINOIS MEDICAL ONCOLOGY SOCIETY

March 8, 2010

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The Honorable Greg Harris
Illinois House of Representatives
258-W Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: Support for HB 5085, The Illinois Cancer Patients' Rights Act

Dear Representative Harris:

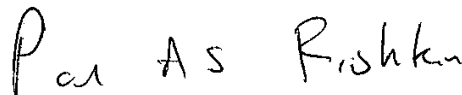
The Illinois Medical Oncology Society (IMOS) is pleased to write in support of HB 5085, a bill addressing the costs of oral-cancer chemotherapy and ensuring access to clinical trials in our State. IMOS is a chapter of the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) and an affiliate of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

IMOS is a non-profit membership organization that represents over 200 oncologists and other cancer providers, such as nurses and social workers, who provide cancer care in Illinois. IMOS members provide services in a variety of settings across the State, including private practices, community cancer centers, clinics, and hospitals. Regardless of the setting, however, each IMOS member can attest to the benefits provided in HB 5085: extending coverage for oral cancer drugs as is provided for their intravenously-administered counterparts and ensuring that cancer patients in Illinois have access to clinical trials and coverage under their health plans for treatments provided through these trials.

Cancer care has made tremendous strides in the last decade. Partially responsible for these advances is the development of a variety of treatments now available to cancer patients and the number of clinical trials being conducted to test innovative and more personalized treatments for cancer. Unfortunately, the cost of these treatments and the differential way they are treated by health insurers oftentimes serve as barriers to their use. We do not want these barriers to exist for the people of Illinois who currently have or may develop cancer and who are forced to make difficult decisions about the treatments available to them because of financial limitations.

IMOS wholeheartedly supports the intent and provisions of HB 5085 and encourages the swift passage of this measure. We would be proud to have Illinois among those states that are making a concerted effort to fight cancer through this kind of legislation.

Sincerely,



Paul A.S. Fishkin, M.D.
President