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May 20, 2010

Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor
State of Connecticut
Hartford, CT

Dear Governor Rell:

The undersigned organizations urge you to sign Public Act No. 10-63, An Act Concerning Oral Chemotherapy Treatments. We are writing on behalf of the cancer patients in the State of Connecticut who have difficulty paying for their chemotherapy simply because it comes in an oral preparation. This is often due simply to outdated insurance coverage where intravenous medications are covered more fully than orally administered products. Unfortunately, more and more products are available only as oral preparations and this can require an insured patient to pay very high out-of-pocket costs.

Public Act No. 10-63 would establish coverage parity between both main types of chemotherapy. This important legislation passed both chambers unanimously because legislators recognized the hardship caused by and the unfairness of current insurance practices. This will not affect some patients, such as state employees, because their current coverage would already comply with the legislation. However, for the patients that do not have adequate coverage this will make a tremendous difference.

Please help the cancer patients of Connecticut have access to the chemotherapy that their physician feels gives them the best chance for a cure regardless of the formulation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Anne Morris, Executive Director
Connecticut Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure

American Cancer Society
American Lung Association
Association of Community Cancer Centers
Oncology Nursing Society
International Cancer Advocacy Network
Susan G. Komen for the Cure Connecticut

International Myeloma Foundation
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Connecticut Oncology Association
Connecticut State Medical Society
New England Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

Three simple steps to early detection are regular mammograms, clinical exams and breast self-exams.