

Denali Oncology Group

February 3, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

We write today on behalf of the Denali Oncology Group (DOG), a professional society formed in 2007. DOG membership represents 100% of the medical cancer specialists treating cancer patients in Alaska, with over 30 physician members statewide. Our mission is to provide advocacy for cancer patients and to promote excellence in the care of patients afflicted with cancer.

We strongly support SB 142 and HB 272 which eliminate the cost disparity between oral and intravenous anti cancer medications, ensuring access to all anticancer medications for all cancer patients.

Affordable access to FDA-approved oral anticancer medications will save countless lives and in the case of many cancer patients the new treatments available are only in oral formulations and do NOT have intravenous substitutes, forcing cancer patients to make a choice of absorbing thousands of dollars of out-of-pocket costs each month or go without their life-saving oral medication and forego treatment.

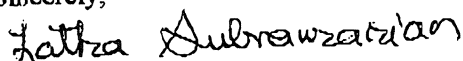
Passing Oral Parity legislation in Alaska that requires health insurers to establish similar policies apply for equal out-of-pocket requirements for oral and intravenous / injectable anticancer medications, will ensure assure that patients are not financially penalized just because their cancer treatment comes in the form of a pill.

It is well documented that the higher the out-of-pocket costs of a cancer treatment, the less likely it is the patient will be able to take the oral anticancer treatment*.

Further, this type of legislation has been enacted in more than 30 states throughout the United States and is strongly endorsed by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Cancer Society, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of America, the International Myeloma Foundation and many other cancer advocacy organizations.

We would encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass an Oral Parity Law in 2016 and on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Denali Oncology Group, and our more than 30 members, we thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Latha Subramanian, MD
President

Latha Subramanian, MD
Anchorage Oncology
Centre
3801 University Lake Dr.
Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99508

Richard Chung, MD
2841 DeBarr Road,
Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99508
Anchorage and Valley
Radiation Therapy Center
Anchorage

Andrew Cox, MD
1640 Cowles Street
Suite 1
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Fairbanks Cancer
Treatment Center

Mary Stewart, MD
Alaska Oncology and
Hematology, LLC
2925 DeBarr Road,
Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99508
Alaska Oncology and
Hematology, LLC

Tammy Thiel
Alaska Oncology and
Hematology, LLC
2925 DeBarr Road,
Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone 907.257.9803
Fax 907.257.9855

*Dusezina, SB et al Cost Sharing and Adherence to Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors for Patients with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. Journal of Clinical Oncology 32(4): 306-311, February 1, 2014.