



March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Cancer Alliance (MCA) supports SF4423, legislation to require insurers to cover wigs for hair loss caused by cancer treatment.

The MCA is a coalition of over 100 organizations dedicated to reducing the burden of cancer through prevention and detection, treatment, survivorship and end-of-life care. Our members include the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Fairview Health Services, the Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center, and the Minnesota Medical Association.

37,930 Minnesotans will be diagnosed with cancer in 2024. As patients navigate cancer treatment and care, many also must go through the physical and the appearance-related side effects of cancer. While not all patients going through cancer treatment may need or want a wig, wigs may help patients feel and look like themselves. Wigs give cancer patient some sense of privacy. Wigs are an important option that should be consistently available to Minnesota's cancer patients.

Cancer patients and their families carry a large burden with a cancer diagnosis, in addition to incurring cancer-related medical debt. Challenges related to the costs of cancer care can affect a person's treatment and well-being during a time they should be focused on their treatment and recovery.

This legislation would support cancer patients by removing a barrier some patients may face and allow a patient and their caregivers to focus their journey of healing. We look forward to your support on SF4423

Sincerely,

Sumedha Penheiter, PhD  
Chair, Minnesota Cancer Alliance Steering Committee

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