



March 27, 2023

The Honorable Zack Stephenson
Chair, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
449 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for provisions in House File 2860 DE amendment

Dear Chair Stephenson and members of the Committee:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DE amendment for HF 2860, which will constitute the committee's omnibus bill for the session.

LLS encourages the committee to support the following patient-friendly provisions in the bill as amended:

1. Feasibility study on access to free primary care (Section 6)
Primary care access is critical to early cancer diagnosis and timely treatment. Studying the potential to provide this necessary care to all Minnesotans is an exciting step towards improved care.
2. Medigap coverage reform (Sections 10 through 15)
Blood cancer patients enrolled in traditional Medicare coverage can face severe out-of-pocket expenses if they do not have Medigap coverage. This language will prevent insurers from applying medical underwriting and other coverage barriers to the sale of these products.
3. Network adequacy, expanded definition (Section 40)
Patients often need access to specialists, particularly when navigating a complex diagnosis. The expanded definition of network adequacy has strong potential to protect the quality and value of health insurance for all Minnesotans who rely on specialty care services.
4. Coverage for preventive items and services (Section 43)
Pending judicial action could weaken the preventive items and services provisions of the Affordable Care Act, which would hurt not only blood cancer patients, but all Minnesotans. Proactive steps should be taken to protect these aspects of coverage to promote better personal and public health.

5. Standard plan implementation for MNSure (Section 54)

Requiring insurers to offer at least one MNSure product per tier with an identical cost-sharing structure will make it easier for consumers to do comparison shopping on coverage and network adequacy.

LLS must note the absence of HF 1658's fertility coverage language in the DE amendment. The bill has yet to receive a hearing in the House, but its companion has been heard in the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee. Should there be an opportunity to amend HF 2860 at a later point to include HF 1658's provisions, LLS would welcome that addition to support fertility preservation and treatment coverage for adolescent and young adult cancer patients.

LLS hopes your committee will support the policies outlined in our letter and welcomes the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Bacon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" and last name "Bacon" clearly distinguishable.

Dana Bacon
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