



March 18, 2024

Dear Chair Stephenson and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Cancer Alliance (MCA) supports HF4557, 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 HF4557.

Sincerely,

Sumedha Penheiter, PhD  
Chair, Minnesota Cancer Alliance Steering Committee

#### 2024 STEERING COMMITTEE

**CHAIR:** Sumedha Penheiter, PhD  
Mayo Clinic

**VICE CHAIR:** Erin Peterson  
Colon Cancer Coalition

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Patty Graham  
HealthPartners

Amy LaRue  
Fond du Lac Human Services Division

Brittney Dahlin  
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers

Laura Fangel  
M Health Fairview – Fairview Health Services

Kate Feuling Porter, MPH  
Be the Match

Catherine Graeve, PhD, MPH, CNE, BSN, PHN  
St. Catherine University

Joanne Moze, MPH  
Blue Cross MN

Cornelius Thiels, DO  
Commission on Cancer, Mayo Clinic

Aleta Stevens  
Masonic Cancer Center Office of Clinical Trials

Deborah Day Laxson  
Health Care Agent Literacy Project

Emily Myatt  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

David Perdue, MD, MSPH  
MINGI Digestive Health

Erin Hartung, JD  
Cancer Legal Care

Heather Kehn, RN, BS, MPH  
Metro-Minnesota Community Oncology Research Consortium Project

Matthew Flory  
American Cancer Society

Amber Kerrigan  
Advocates for Better Health

Caitlyn Campbell  
Allina Cancer Institute

Melanie Peterson-Hickey, PhD  
Minnesota Department of Health

Ashley Pohlenz, MPH  
University of Minnesota – Masonic Cancer

Kathy Scheid  
Elder Network

Patrick Tarnowski  
Healthcare Consultant

Carrie Salaness  
A Breath of Hope Foundation

Jeff Myhre  
Jacks' Caregivers Coalition

Kris Newcomer  
Breast Cancer Gaps Project

TBD  
Association of Nonsmokers-Minnesota