

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Henry T. Perea
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via Fax: (916) 319-2131

RE: AB 1000 - Support

Dear Assemblyman Perea,

We are writing on behalf of the Disability Rights Legal Center to thank you for sponsoring **AB 1000**, which addresses the disparity of insurance coverage between intravenous chemotherapy drugs and oral chemotherapy drugs.

Oral chemotherapy is quickly emerging as an attractive option for patients, who can take chemotherapy pills when prescribed by their doctors, rather than receive chemotherapy treatment intravenously at a medical facility. Unfortunately, there is a significant difference in the amount cancer patients must pay out of pocket for an oral drug instead of an intravenous drug.

This bill will improve access to life-saving cancer treatment and therapies that would otherwise be unavailable for people with cancer, who cannot afford high out-of-pocket costs. Specifically, this bill would require health care service plan or health insurer to review the percentage cost share, as defined, for oral nongeneric cancer medications and intravenous or injected nongeneric cancer medications and to apply the lower of the two as the cost-sharing provision for oral nongeneric cancer medications.

The **Disability Rights Legal Center** (DRLC) has worked to implement the civil rights of people with disabilities for over 30 years. We are the oldest cross-disability legal advocacy organization in the country. Our mission is to promote the rights of people with disabilities and the public interest in, and awareness of, those rights by providing legal and related services.

Through our **Cancer Legal Resource Center** (CLRC), we have unique knowledge and experience with laws and legislation that impact the rights of individuals diagnosed with cancer, cancer survivors, and caregivers. The CLRC, a national, joint program of the DLRC and Loyola Law School Los Angeles, has provided over 231,000 people with free and confidential information and resources on cancer-related legal issues, including access to care, insurance, government benefits, estate planning, and employment. Please visit www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org for more information.

The DRLC strongly supports AB 1000, and we appreciate your dedication in the fight against cancer. This legislation is crucial to ensure equity of health coverage for cancer treatment. At the same time, we must ensure that in adopting this policy, health insurers are not allowed to reduce coverage for intravenous treatments. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,



Paula D. Pearlman, Esq.
Executive Director, Disability Rights Legal Center



Joanna L. Morales, Esq.
Director, Cancer Legal Resource Center