

March 4, 2020

We, the undersigned entities, support S.B. 252 and encourage its passage. The bill eliminates step therapy, or “fail first” provisions, for Stage IV metastatic cancer patients. The health care needs of Stage IV cancer patients are extremely urgent, and any delay in treatment could have significant adverse consequences, including poor patient outcomes and increased medical utilization.

Options for cancer care are rapidly growing in areas such as immunotherapy, gene therapy, and other targeted treatments, creating new options for patients. Cancer treatment is increasingly personalized. Physicians consider unique patient circumstances and expected responses when selecting a drug as a first course of treatment for cancer or its associated conditions.

The bill allows patients immediate access to the treatment chosen by their physicians for their cancer or its associated conditions. Safeguards are in place for such treatments, as all therapies must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration or included in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network drugs and biologics compendia for treatment of the disease, or be consistent with best practices for the treatment of State IV disease, as supported by peer-reviewed medical literature. SB 252 does not require an insurance plan to coverage a drug that is not included on its formulary.

Ensuring patients diagnosed with Stage IV, advanced metastatic cancer have access to the most appropriate therapies is critical for their best chance at positive outcomes.

Twelve states already have passed similar legislation to ensure patients have access to the right treatment at the right time. We ask your support in making Ohio the next state to pass this common sense solution for some of our most vulnerable patients.

Sincerely,

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Cleveland Clinic

Ohio Children’s Hospital Association

Ohio Hospital Association

Ohio State Medical Association

Susan G. Komen Columbus

Susan G. Komen Northeast Ohio

Susan G. Komen Northwest Ohio

Susan G. Komen Southwest Ohio

The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute