

ASCO®

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

December 1, 2023

Representative Brian Lampton, Chairman  
Representative Jessica Miranda, Ranking Member  
House Insurance Committee  
Vern Riffe Center  
Room 122  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Lampton and Ranking Member Miranda,

The Ohio Hematology Oncology Society (OHOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to support **HB 156**, which would prohibit mandatory white bagging requirements from insurers so that patients can obtain clinician administered drugs from their health care providers, thereby preserving timely and consistent delivery of high quality, patient-centered care.

OHOS represents over 200 physicians specializing in the practice of Hematology and Oncology (blood disorders and cancer). OHOS is committed to promoting excellence in the care of patients afflicted with cancer and hematologic disorders in Ohio. ASCO is the world's leading professional society representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 50,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality, equitable cancer care.

Traditionally, the acquisition of anti-cancer drugs is managed in the independent practice or hospital setting where chemotherapy administration is overseen by the treating physician. The practice or hospital pharmacy purchases, stores, and administers these agents under strict handling and administration standards.

Although clinicians prepare detailed treatment plans, drug regimens often change because of clinical circumstances on the day of treatment. Administration may be adjusted according to criteria, such as patient weight, comorbidities, lab reports, guidelines, and other clinical data. Under a mandatory white bagging policy, insurers require physicians to obtain drugs purchased and handled by payer-owned or affiliated pharmacies, which requires additional coordination with patients and physicians and could delay or disrupt treatment plans and decisions. Day-of treatment changes can lead to a delay in care if a physician must place a new order, requiring the patient to return on a later date to receive their treatment. This can result in significantly decreased chances of a successful clinical outcome for the patient.

When treatment plans are modified on the day of treatment, mandatory white bagging policies can also lead to waste if an unused portion of a previously dispensed drug cannot be used for a different patient. Many anti-cancer drugs are highly toxic and require special handling when discarded. The burden of

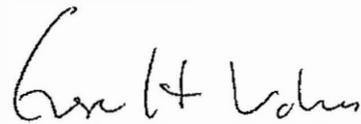
unnecessary waste related to white bagging falls to practices and hospitals, which must dispose of drugs according to state and federal requirements.

OHOS and ASCO recognize that white bagging may be necessary in some settings. However, mandatory white bagging is not appropriate and can jeopardize the delivery of high-value, high-quality care. For these reasons, we support any efforts to prohibit mandatory white bagging in Ohio. For a more detailed understanding of our policy on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Position Statement on White Bagging](#) by our affiliate, the American Society of Clinical Oncology. OHOS and ASCO welcome the opportunity to be a resource for you. Please contact Nick Telesco at ASCO at [Nicholas.Telesco@asco.org](mailto:Nicholas.Telesco@asco.org) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Slobodan Stanistic, MD  
President  
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society



Everett Vokes, MD, FASCO  
Chair of the Board  
Association for Clinical Oncology