

A Big Win for Cancer Patients in Ohio

June 25, 2014

A BIG win for cancer patients across the Buckeye state! On June 3, 2014, the Ohio House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 99 which allows equal benefit coverage of cancer drugs. This means that patients who are prescribed an orally administered cancer medication will receive as much coverage by their insurance as they would for IV administered cancer medications. The bill was signed into law on June 17, 2014 by Ohio Governor John Kasich.

“When facing a cancer diagnosis, patients shouldn’t be put in a position where they have to make a decision between continuing treatment or putting food on the table. Decisions on treatment should not be based on the price tag of the medications that give them the best chance at saving or prolonging their life. That is what Ohio cancer patients have been facing for the several years we have been working on getting this legislation passed,” said Sean Shacklett, Executive Director at Komen Northeast Ohio. “Komen Northeast Ohio is thrilled that the women and men facing cancer in Ohio will have peace of mind knowing that whatever decisions they find best for them will be covered fairly by their insurance.”

This victory has been at least three years in the making with the leadership of Senators Scott Oelslager (R) and Charleta B. Tavares (D), along with the collaborative efforts of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Cancer Support Community, International Myeloma Foundation and all the Ohio Susan G. Komen Affiliates. We also want to thank more than 385 Komen supporters who helped the cause by writing letters to their House or Senate representatives through our e-alerts.