Nation’s Leading Organization of Cancer Care Providers Urges North Carolina Senate to Pass Oral Chemotherapy Fairness Legislation

Statement by ASCO President Bruce E. Johnson, MD, FASCO
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“The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the leading professional organization representing over 42,000 physicians and other healthcare providers who care for people with cancer, strongly supports North Carolina House bill 206, which would address inappropriate cost-sharing burdens for oral anti-cancer drugs for the state's cancer patients.

“Advances and innovation in cancer care in recent years have introduced highly effective oral medications for treatment of patients with cancer. In some instances, oral therapies may be the best or even only treatment option for a cancer patient. Yet, patients often face higher cost-sharing burdens for oral anticancer medications than for traditional chemotherapy or intravenous treatments. The North Carolina bill would help to remove unnecessary financial obstacles to make it possible for more patients to access these life-extending oral treatments.

“By passing House bill 206, North Carolina would join forty-three other states and the District of Columbia that have enacted similar oral chemotherapy parity legislation. ASCO urges the North Carolina State Senate to take this crucial step towards ensuring that the state’s patients with cancer have access to the optimal medication for their cancer treatment.”

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Read ASCO’s letter of support to the North Carolina State Senate.

About ASCO:

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world’s leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at www.ASCO.org, explore patient education resources at www.Cancer.Net, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.