



February 21, 2020

Senator Andy Manar
Room 119-A
Capitol Building
301 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Senator Manar,

The Illinois Medical Oncology Society (IMOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to provide our strong support of your legislation, SB 2499, which would guarantee coverage of the routine care costs for clinical trials participation for Medicaid enrollees in Illinois.

IMOS represents the common interests of the oncologists treating cancer in Illinois, striving to provide members with innovative resources to help them stay ahead of the shifting healthcare landscape and challenges that directly impact the high-quality care their patients deserve. ASCO is the national organization representing nearly 45,000 physicians and other health care professionals specializing in cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention.

Clinical trials often provide patients with the best—perhaps the only—treatment option for their condition. In Illinois, over 20 percent of the state's population is enrolled in Medicaid and without the guarantee of coverage for the routine care costs of clinical trials, enrollees may not have the latest advancements as a treatment option.

Across the country, Medicaid insures nearly one-fifth of the US population and is the only major payer that is not required by federal law to cover routine costs associated with participation in clinical trials. As of today, just eleven states require their Medicaid programs to cover these costs, potentially leaving as many as 42.2 million Medicaid patients without this needed coverage. This benefit is assured for Medicare enrollees and for patients with private health insurance.

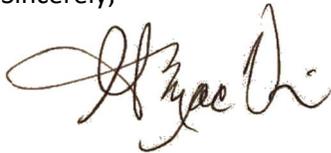
Routine costs include the non-experimental costs of treating a patient who is participating in a clinical trial, such as the cost of physician visits or laboratory tests. These costs are part of standard care and would be incurred regardless of whether a patient participates in a clinical trial. The cost of any investigative device or drug would continue to be covered by the trial sponsor. As such, this coverage would have little to no impact on the overall cost of care to Medicaid programs.

Robust clinical trial participation improves the quality of medical research. Medicaid serves many demographics, including ethnic minorities and women, that are underrepresented in current clinical trial enrollment. Lack of participation in clinical trials from the Medicaid population means these patients are being excluded from potentially life-saving trials and are not reflected in the outcome of the clinical

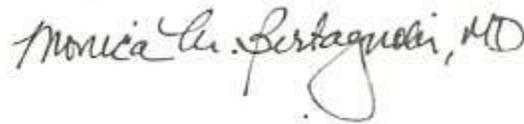
research. Increased access to clinical trial participation for Medicaid enrollees helps ensure medical research results more accurately capture and reflect the populations of this country.

Thank you for being a leader on this important issue. We stand ready to work with you throughout the legislative process with the goal of getting this measure enacted into law. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Jenn Brunelle at ASCO at Jennifer.Brunelle@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary MacVicar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being particularly prominent.

Gary MacVicar, MD
President
Illinois Medical Oncology Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Bertagnolli, MD". The signature is cursive and includes the letters "MD" at the end.

Monica Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology