

March 31, 2025

Senator Fabian Doñate
Nevada State Senate
401 South Carson Street
Carons City, Nevada 89701

Dear Senator Doñate and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing to express our firm support for Senate Bill No. 234, which aims to provide emergency Medicaid coverage for cancer patients who currently lack access to the essential medical care they need.

Access to life-saving treatment should not be determined by one's ability to pay. This bill represents a crucial step toward ensuring that cancer patients are not left to face their illness without the necessary medical support. As a practicing oncologist, I have seen firsthand how patients often struggle to access vital treatments due to financial limitations or lack of insurance coverage. The fear and uncertainty of a cancer diagnosis are only worsened when patients cannot afford the care they urgently need.

Senate Bill No. 234 includes provisions for Medicaid to cover critical treatments such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery, which are integral to effective cancer care. By extending emergency Medicaid coverage to encompass these services, the bill recognizes the urgent, often life-threatening, nature of cancer. It ensures that treatment is administered when it is most needed, potentially saving lives and halting the disease's progression. Additionally, the bill addresses both the financial and ethical responsibilities of providing care to those in need. It reflects the core values of compassion and equality that are fundamental to our healthcare system. Providing coverage for emergency medical conditions, including cancer and renal disease, is not only a humane decision, but a practical one—early intervention can ultimately reduce long-term healthcare costs.

In closing, I strongly urge the legislative body to pass Senate Bill No. 234. This bill is a critical step in offering support to many individuals battling cancer without the means to afford necessary care. Its passage would demonstrate our commitment to ensuring fair and equitable healthcare.

Sincerely,



Shane Piccinini
Government Relations



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