



Proposed legislation would keep cancer treatments affordable for patients

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To the Editor,

As an oncologist, my focus is on caring for patients, not navigating the complexities of drug policy.

Clinics like mine are deeply committed to keeping care affordable and accessible, which is why I'm grateful to Representative Darin LaHood for cosponsoring the bipartisan Protecting Patient Access to Cancer and Complex Therapies Act (H.R. 4299).

This legislation addresses upcoming changes that would reduce Medicare payments for certain life-saving cancer treatments, which could put added strain on the ability of independent oncology practices to care for patients.

Chemotherapy and other complex treatments are not drugs that can be found in a pharmacy. They are treatments that need to be bought in advance by clinics, securely stored, and administered by a physician. When reimbursement for these drugs is reduced, community oncology practices are forced to absorb costs that many can't sustain.

Drug policy issues are complex, but the implications are straightforward. Cuts to reimbursement risk limiting patients' access to local cancer care, forcing them to travel farther for treatment, face longer wait times, and receive care in more expensive hospital settings. A cancer diagnosis is stressful enough without having to worry about finding convenient care.

H.R. 4299 would maintain payments to independent oncologists while keeping cancer treatments affordable for patients. I'm grateful to Rep. LaHood for his support, and I urge his colleagues in Congress to swiftly pass this crucial legislation.