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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Recognizing the importance of protecting continuous Medicaid coverage for individuals undergoing active cancer treatment.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. DINGELL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of protecting continuous Medicaid coverage for individuals undergoing active cancer treatment.

Whereas cancer treatment may require surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy, medications, imaging, laboratory testing, rehabilitation, and ongoing follow up care;

Whereas cancer and cancer treatment can temporarily or permanently limit an individual's ability to work or meet Medicaid community engagement requirements required by section 1902(xx) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(xx));

Whereas interruptions in health coverage during cancer treatment can delay care, interrupt medications and treatment, increase financial hardship, and place patients at unnecessary risk;

Whereas, according to a study from the American Society of Clinical Oncology, 75.5 percent of cancer patients reported delayed or foregone care due to administrative burdens, such as insurance interactions, provider organization interactions, and care coordination between multiple parties;

Whereas CMS–2454–IFC clarifies the exemption from community engagement requirements for certain individuals who are medically frail or have special medical needs when their condition significantly impairs their ability to meet those requirements;

Whereas States may use reliable information already available to Medicaid programs, including claims, encounter data, and other health information to determine whether an individual qualifies for such an exemption;

Whereas individuals undergoing cancer treatment should not be required to repeatedly prove medical circumstances that a State Medicaid program may already be able to verify; and

Whereas unnecessary paperwork and reporting requirements can create barriers to care for individuals already managing a serious illness: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes that continuity of health cov-
3 erage is especially important for individuals under-
4 going active cancer treatment;

1 (2) encourages States—

2 (A) to establish procedures to proactively
3 identify Medicaid beneficiaries undergoing ac-
4 tive cancer treatment through available claims,
5 encounter data, and other reliable health infor-
6 mation;

7 (B) when those records demonstrate can-
8 cer, cancer treatment, or treatment-related ef-
9 fects, to determine that individual eligible for
10 the applicable medical exemption without re-
11 quiring additional reporting from the patient;

12 (C) to use existing Medicaid records when-
13 ever possible for subsequent verification so that
14 patients are not repeatedly required to docu-
15 ment the same medical circumstances;

16 (D) when existing records are insufficient,
17 to permit a simple certification from the indi-
18 vidual's treating oncologist, physician, or other
19 qualified health care professional;

20 (E) to provide clear notice, reasonable as-
21 sistance, and an opportunity to establish an ex-
22 emption before Medicaid coverage is suspended
23 or terminated; and

24 (F) to adopt similar processes for other
25 chronic illnesses and diseases;

1 (3) encourages the Centers for Medicare &
2 Medicaid Services—

3 (A) to provide States with guidance and
4 technical assistance to make these procedures
5 as simple and automatic as possible for eligible
6 cancer patients; and

7 (B) to issue similar guidance to States as
8 it relates to other chronic diseases; and

9 (4) affirms that no individual undergoing active
10 cancer treatment should have lifesaving care inter-
11 rupted solely because illness, treatment, or treat-
12 ment-related effects prevented that person from sat-
13 isfying an administrative or community engagement
14 requirement.