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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Henry Vaupel, DVM
House Committee on Health Policy
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I write today concerning House Bills 4978 and 4979 and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's opposition to these bills. We appreciate your concern about making sure that patients can afford the prescription drugs they need but we have strong concerns about the safety of drug importation from other countries.

ACS CAN is concerned that prescription drug importation does not include robust safeguards to ensure the safety of the prescription drugs imported into the U.S. Many oncology drugs require specific handling which may not be able to be guaranteed through an importation program. We need to ensure that the treatments that are being provided to not just cancer patients, but all patients, have the safety protections that will ensure positive outcomes for all those who use those treatments.

ACS CAN has model legislation that would provide transparency for prescription drug formularies which would help those buying insurance to understand their individual out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs. We would welcome a meeting to discuss this model legislation. House Bill 4099 currently before the legislature is a bill ACS CAN is supporting. HB 4099 would help ensure the patient costs for cancer therapies that are administered orally and by IV are the same. and

We are asking that you please do not move these bills forward. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

Andrew R. Schepers
Michigan Government Relations Director

c: Members of the House Committee on Health Policy

Contributions or gifts to the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Inc. are not tax-deductible because we use your donations to support our citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts to end cancer.