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January 31, 2023

The Honorable Michael Webert
Chair, Subcommittee #2
House Commerce and Energy Committee
1000 Bank Street
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Support for House Bill 1782 ensuring fairness in cost-sharing

Chair Webert,

On behalf of the Virginia Association of Hematologists and Oncologists (VAHO), we would like to thank the House Commerce and Energy Subcommittee #2 for considering House Bill 1782 and the potential cost-saving implications this bill may have on Virginians living with cancer.

VAHO is a professional organization whose mission is to help foster the highest quality of cancer care in the state of Virginia. VAHO members are community of oncologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other allied health professionals deeply involved in care of our cancer patients.

While VAHO and our members strive to provide Virginians with low-cost cancer treatment, many patients continue to face increased barriers to care in the form of costs at the pharmacy counter. Rather than reducing costs, pharmacy benefit managers are increasing the price of prescription medication by redirecting rebates, intended to lower the cost of medications, away from patients and into PBM pockets.

If passed HB 1782 would ensure that 80% of all rebates provided by manufacturers would go directly to the patient. We write to you today to declare our firm support of this share-the-savings initiative. As we know all too well, Virginians living with cancer are fighting for their lives each and every day. There is no time to delay.

On behalf of VAHO, I ask the committee to join us in our fight for patients and act quickly to pass HB 1782.

Sincerely,

Richard Ingram, MD
President, *Virginia Association of Hematologists and Oncologists*