



September 12, 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 219 (Oral Chemotherapy)
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown,

BIOCOM leads the advocacy efforts of the Southern California life science community with more than 560 members including medical device, diagnostics, biotechnology and biofuels companies; universities; basic research institutions; and service support firms. As an advocacy organization we are actively engaged in ensuring that the life science industry remains a strong and growing part of the state's economy. In keeping with this, we request your signature on AB 219.

AB 219 would impose a maximum co-payment of \$200, indexed to the CPI, per prescription for oral chemotherapy treatments. This bill addresses a bias in current coverage practices, one which prevents cancer patients from being in an environment most conducive to their recovery by compelling them to receive inpatient or facility-based outpatient treatment.

Not too long ago, a diagnosis of "treatable" cancer meant weeks in a hospital receiving intravenous chemotherapy, disrupting the life of the patient, his or her loved ones, employers and co-workers. With ongoing discoveries in the pharmaceutical and biologics fields, some cancers can now be treated with oral agents. This change in therapeutic delivery systems has meant patients can be treated while staying at home, significantly improving quality of life and minimizing risks such as hospital acquired infections. Unfortunately, some plans and insurers put an extremely high patient share of cost premium on these life-saving therapies, preferring instead to drive the patient to cheaper, less targeted injectables, contrary to the prescriber's wishes.

BIOCOM is proud to support AB 219 and respectfully requests your signature on this bill. Please be aware that BIOCOM's contract lobbyist is conflicted out on this legislation, but if I may answer any questions, please contact me at jjackson@biocom.org or 858-455-0300x102.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Jackson
Vice President of Public Policy
BIOCOM