

HB 530 -- HEALTH INSURANCE

CO-SPONSORS: Schaaf, Harris (23), Jones, Fraser, Meiners, Campbell, Hilgemann, Yaeger, Hoskins, Bruns, Engler

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 12 to 1.

This bill requires health insurers to cover phase I and phase II of clinical trials for cancer treatment. Current law requires coverage only for phase III and IV of these trials. The bill clarifies that this mandate of coverage does not apply to supplemental insurance policies.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost to General Revenue Fund of Unknown expected to exceed \$70,000 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006. Estimated Net Income to Insurance Dedicated Fund of \$8,000 in FY 2004, \$0 in FY 2005, and \$0 in FY 2006. Estimated Net Cost to Patrol Highway Fund of Unknown in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006. Estimated Net Cost to Other State Funds of Unknown expected to exceed \$11,500 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many cancer patients do not participate in clinical cancer trials for various reasons, including the costs resulting from treatments and the potential denial of health insurance claims which have been submitted for payment. Patients in Missouri have consistently experienced difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage for routine patient costs incurred as a result of participating in phase I and phase II clinical cancer trials. The bill will provide increased access to clinical cancer trials and treatments for cancer patients.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schaaf; Siteman Cancer Center; Missouri Nurses Association; Jeff M. Michalski, M.D.; University of Missouri Health Care; and Elizabeth Grubesich. Written letters of support were submitted by St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness; and Washington University School of Medicine.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that legislation was passed in 2002 which requires insurance companies to provide coverage for routine patient costs incurred by cancer patients who participate in phase III and phase IV clinical cancer trials. Due to the recent passage of the legislation, health insurers have not been able to collect enough health insurance data in order to determine the effectiveness and the feasibility of the mandated insurance coverage. Health insurers should not be required to provide coverage for phase I and phase II clinical cancer trials without the collection, analysis, and evaluation of

health insurance data concerning insurance coverage for phase I and phase II clinical cancer trials.

Testifying against the bill were Blue Cross Blue Shield of Missouri; Group Health Plan; and Coventry Healthcare Plan.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst