



February 4, 2021

Representative Andrea Salinas  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, OR 97301

Honorable Chair Salinas and Members of the House Committee,

The Oregon Society for Medical Oncology (OSMO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to **support HB 2508: Requires Oregon Health Authority to ensure reimbursement of health services delivered using telemedicine**, which would allow for Oregon patients with cancer to continue receiving necessary care through telemedicine.

OSMO is a professional organization whose mission is to facilitate improvements for Oregon physician specialties in both hematology and oncology. OSMO members are a community of hematologists, oncologists, and other physicians who specialize in cancer care. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

OSMO and ASCO agree telemedicine has allowed providers to continue treating patients with cancer during the pandemic, both in rural and urban communities, with minimal disruption. Telemedicine has also led to fewer missed appointments than normally experienced with in-person visits. While telemedicine cannot fully replace face to face cancer care, the extension of covered benefits in recent months has rapidly changed the way we see patients and prompted innovation that has allowed us to safely increase access to high quality care. Our affiliate organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, recently published an [Interim Position Statement](#) on Telemedicine in Cancer Care, which highlights the potential for telemedicine to play an important role in cancer care delivery moving forward.

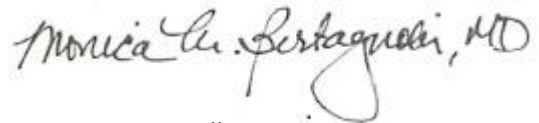
We are encouraged that HB 2508 includes coverage and reimbursement for audio-only appointments if video is not available. Not all Oregon patients have the same access to video connection and this provision would assure all individuals can access the benefits afforded by access telemedicine appointments.

OSMO and ASCO applaud the swift bipartisan efforts thus far in working to deliver greater access to telemedicine in light of the pandemic. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact David Hufnagel at [David.Hufnagel@asoncology.com](mailto:David.Hufnagel@asoncology.com) or Aaron Segel at ASCO at [aaron.segel@asco.org](mailto:aaron.segel@asco.org).

Sincerely,



David Hufnagel, DO  
President  
Oregon Society of Medical Oncology



Monica Bertagnoli, MD, FACS, FASCO  
President  
Association for Clinical Oncology