



METAVIVOR

Metastatic Breast Cancer | Research | Advocacy | Support

Cancer Drug Parity Act of 2025 (H.R. 4101/S. 5004)

REQUEST

METAvivor urges members of Congress to co-sponsor and support the bipartisan Cancer Drug Parity Act (H.R.4101/S. 5004).

Oral Parity is especially important as oral treatments are becoming a common standard of care for cancer patients; many of these oral chemotherapy drugs do not have IV/injectable equivalents.

WHY WE'RE HERE

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is stage IV breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body. It is a treatable terminal diagnosis, but it is not curable. People with MBC face unique challenges in accessing timely, affordable, and effective treatment.

- An estimated 168,000 women in the U.S. are currently living with MBC, and 2,670 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2026.
- 42,140 women and 530 men will die from MBC this year.
- About 1 in 4 patients with early-stage breast cancer will develop MBC.
- Only 32% of people diagnosed with MBC live longer than 5 years.

BACKGROUND

Oral oncology drugs offer patients a more convenient, less invasive alternative to IV chemotherapy, but they often carry much higher out-of-pocket costs due to insurance coverage differences. IV treatments are usually covered under a plan's medical

benefit, while oral drugs fall under the prescription benefit. This creates a cost disparity.

To address this, 43 states and D.C. have enacted "oral parity" laws, but patients in federally regulated plans remain unprotected.

The Cancer Drug Parity Act would provide equal coverage for all cancer patients—regardless of how the treatment is administered—ensuring that medication cost is not a factor in physician and patient treatment decisions.

Specifically, the bill will:

- Expand oral parity protections to privately insured patients whose health care is regulated at the federal level.
- Prevent insurers from covering oral and self-administered medicines at different cost-sharing rates than IV treatments.
- Implement these requirements for health plans that already cover both oral and IV chemotherapy treatments.

No patient should face higher costs simply because their life-saving cancer treatment comes in a pill instead of through an IV.

By passing the Cancer Drug Parity Act, Congress can ensure fairness in coverage, protect patients from financial hardship, and allow treatment decisions to be guided by medical need, not insurance rules. Act now to give cancer patients the access to care they deserve.

METAvivor is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that funds vital research to help improve the longevity and quality of life for MBC patients. As passionately committed patients ourselves, we rally public attention to the urgent needs of the MBC community, help patients find strength through support and purpose, and make every dollar count as we work with and fund researchers seeking to extend and improve the quality of care for MBC patients.