

August 28, 2017

Mr. Bill Thomas  
Office of the Associate Vice President  
of Governmental Relations  
Hampton University  
Hampton, VA 23668

Dear Mr. Thomas:

As you know, my wife Dianne Weber is in urgent need of proton radiation treatment of her recurrent anal cancer which has metastasized in her pelvic region. The recommendation for proton therapy was made by her team of doctors at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX.

The well-documented request from her doctors was met with an unceremonious rejection by our insurance company here in Virginia, Anthem/Blue Cross. A subsequent request for appeal, again well-documented (copy attached), was similarly rejected by Anthem.

We found clear evidence that the Anthem/Blue Cross denial was based on outdated information contained in Anthem's policy statement on Proton radiation. When we alerted the Department of Insurance that Anthem's policy statement referenced 3-year-old data from the American Society of Radiation Oncologists (ASTRO) and that a new statement published in June of *this* year by ASTRO strongly supports the use of proton therapy in my wife's situation, that information was passed from the Department to Anthem. The company still rejected our appeal. We believe this rejection was in total disregard for the law passed by the Virginia legislature and signed into law by Governor McCauliffe on March 3, 2017. Moreover, we think that Anthem has cynically and systematically ignored the legislation to preserve their own profits at the expense of cancer patients throughout the state.

Now, we have a further complication. As a result of the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Harvey, access to treatment at MD Anderson has become impossible for the foreseeable future. Roads are not passable, flights into and out of Houston have been cancelled indefinitely and living conditions are such that my wife will be unable to live in the city for the three weeks of her treatment. What's more, her window of time for effective radiation treatment is extremely short. Her doctors advised that proton therapy should commence no later than three weeks following her last chemotherapy session. We are now at the three week limit. Treatment in Houston is not currently feasible. Therefore, we are urgently turning to the people at Virginia's only proton radiation treatment center at Hampton, University to help save Dianne's life. **Can you help us?**

**Time is short. Anthem is flouting Virginia law and we are desperate.** Surely this is not what the Virginia legislature and the Governor intended. Hampton University could provide the life-saving therapy Dianne needs.

Sincerely,

*Jack Weber*

Jack Weber  
47778 Brawner Place  
Sterling, VA 20165  
202-528-1887

jwai@verizon.net