



March 3, 2021

Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairwoman Kahle and Members of the Health Policy Committee,

For individuals living with rare and chronic conditions, like hemophilia, cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis, the high cost of treatment has a direct impact on patient access. Many patients and their families rely on copay assistance programs from manufacturers and nonprofit organizations to afford the medications they need to manage their conditions—medications that rarely have generic alternatives. A recent prescription drug coupon study released in July 2020 showed that drug coupons provide financial relief and likely improve adherence, leading to better clinical outcomes.¹

Unfortunately, insurers continue to introduce new programs called *accumulator adjuster programs* that bar all copay assistance from counting towards patients' out-of-pocket costs and impede their access to

¹ Health Policy Commission, Prescription Drug Coupon Study: Report to the Massachusetts Legislature, July 2020, 22.

life-saving and life-enhancing medication. The same prescription drug coupon study reported that “34% of commercially insured patients in 2018 were covered by payers that have implemented copay accumulators. Additionally, the survey found that another 28% of patients are enrolled in plans that plan to implement these programs in 2019 and beyond.”² This insurance trend is increasing and will continue to impact more Michiganders without reform.

The 32 undersigned organizations, who together represent hundreds of thousands of Michiganders with chronic diseases, would like to express our support of HB 4353 and appreciation to Chairwoman Kahle for leading the accumulator reform efforts through House Bill 4353.

HB 4353 ensures that all copay assistance counts—by requiring that all payments made by or on behalf of the insured go toward a patient’s deductible and out-of-pocket costs.

The undersigned patient and provider organizations are concerned that HB 4353 has been introduced with the possibility of a tie-bar. We understand that health care reform is complex and we greatly appreciate the time and effort the Committee has dedicated to improving health care for all Michiganders, but patients can’t wait.

At a time when Michiganders are already struggling financially from the pandemic, we ask that the Committee put patients’ health first and quickly move copay accumulator reform so patients can afford their medications, stay adherent to their treatments, and reduce the need for expensive hospitalization.

Sincerely,



Allergy and Asthma Network
Alliance for Patient Access
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Kidney Fund
The Arc Michigan
Arthritis Foundation
The Bonnell Foundation
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Gaucher Community Alliance
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
Little Hercules Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology

² Ibid., 23-24.

Michigan State Medical Society
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Diseases
National Psoriasis Foundation
New Day Foundation
Rock CF
Spondylitis Association of America
Susan G. Komen

And supporting organizations:

Disability Rights Michigan
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan
HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan
Mental Health Association in Michigan