



February 25, 2019

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

**RE: House Bill 2799 - Support**

Dear Representative Salinas,

The Arthritis Foundation urges your support of House Bill 2799 when it comes before your committee. This bill requires carriers to offer, in at least 25% of their benefit plans, flat dollar copayments for prescription drug coverage. In addition, it requires carriers to report annually to the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) specified information about changes to the formulary, cost sharing, and utilization controls for prescription drugs.

This bill addresses the high cost of medications by requiring more affordable co-pay only insurance policies. High cost sharing, also known as co-insurance, is a barrier to medication access for people with chronic, disabling, and life-threatening conditions. Cost-sharing for prescription medications should not be so burdensome that it restricts or interferes with access to necessary medications, which can lead to negative health outcomes and additional costs to the health care system. A patient being able to choose a co-pay plan allows them to budget for the entire year with regards to the specific amount they will be charged.

In addition, the transparency required in HB 2799 by carriers would benefit people with arthritis who are comparing the provisions and benefits of various insurance plans. People with substantial prescription medication needs – especially those living with chronic conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) – must be able to access this information so they can select the most appropriate health insurance plan. Transparency and adequacy make it easier for those with serious conditions to choose a plan that will cover the prescription medications they need.

On behalf of the more than 838,000 adults and 3,400 children in Oregon living with arthritis, we strongly urge your support of HB 2799 to ensure patients have continuity of care, formulary transparency and lower costs for their crucial prescription medications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Schultz".

Steven Schultz  
State Director, Advocacy & Access  
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cc: Representative Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair  
Representative Rob Nosse, Vice-Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health Care