

May 5, 2021

Representative Rachel Prusak  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care

RE: Support for SB 560

Dear Chair Prusak and members of the committee,

As a patient I am greatly impacted by the legislation before you today and urge you to pass SB 560 out of committee as soon as possible to ensure Oregonian's do not lose access to critical medications.

Copay assistance is an important tool to help patients afford expensive and life-saving medications. Many pharmaceutical manufacturers support patient assistance programs by providing funds for what are commonly known as copay coupons or manufacturer copay cards. Previously, payments using funds from these programs counted towards a patient's deductible, helping them afford coverage until the copay card is utilized and the benefits from insurance coverage begin.

Copay accumulator programs or accumulator adjustment programs would maximize the use of copay assistance without assisting in the patient's deductible or out of pocket costs, leaving the patient with exorbitant and often unexpected bills. These programs dissuade the use of this vital copay assistance and place the financial burden on the shoulders of patients. Five states have so far successfully passed legislation that bans accumulator policies—Virginia, West Virginia, Illinois, Arizona and, most recently, Georgia—to help protect patients from high out-of-pocket costs. Help Oregon join these states as well as others across the nation in protecting chronic patients everywhere and stopping the use of these dangerous programs.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously,

Rachel Peterson