

Testimony in Support of SB 439

Chair Patterson and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice support for SB 430.

Many years ago I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C. I carried the Virus for years because treatment then was not always successful and even with good insurance I could not afford the copays. The old treatment of interferon would have probably forced me out of work and then no insurance. When I retired research brought a new 95 percent effective 12 week program with few side effects. The price was still around \$900 a pill. My social security couldn't begin to afford co pays but a government program Payment Access Network picked up the cost. I now have a healthy liver.

I am now on Medicare with the supplemental insurance and have returned to work to make ends meet. Even with the insurance, not all prescriptions have low co pays. Many are very reasonable but my inhaler has a \$50 copay and I am following a diet to lower A1-C so that I don't eventually need insulin,

We should all be able to afford life saving treatment. Our tax dollars help subsidize research and development yet many are forced to choose between physical and financial health. Probably the worse off in all groups are the self employed and self insured with high deductibles.

SB 439 is a start in reducing some out of pocket costs and it is fair since it includes 15% of rebates to stay with the providers to cover administrative costs.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support