



February 6, 2023

Chair Rob Nosse  
Committee on Behavioral Health & Health Care  
Oregon State House of Representatives  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Vice Chair Christine Goodwin  
Vice Chair Travis Nelson  
Members, House Committee on  
Behavioral Health & Health Care

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

Susan G. Komen is the world's leading non-profit breast cancer organization, representing the millions of women and men who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. We write in support of HB 4113, which would ensure that copay assistance payments made by or on behalf of a patient, regardless of its source, count toward the patient's annual out-of-pocket cost sharing requirements.

Chronically ill patients frequently find themselves in the middle of policy fights between pharmaceutical manufacturers and insurance companies over the escalating cost of drugs that these patients rely on to stay alive. In this case, copay accumulator programs are implemented by insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers as a form of utilization management. These programs target specialty drugs for which manufacturers often provide copay assistance. With a copay accumulator program in place, patients may use manufacturer assistance programs to help pay for their prescriptions, but the assistance does not count towards the patient's annual deductible. Patients are faced with increased out-of-pocket costs and take longer to reach the required deductible.

At the same time, health plans have also moved to shift more costs to the patient by instituting coinsurance rather than copays. Coinsurance requires a beneficiary to pay a percentage of the list price of a medication, making out-of-pocket costs significantly higher to a patient than that of a set copay medication. Copay assistance from the drug manufacturer plays an important and necessary role in assisting the patient as they are required to take on more health care costs.

Patients are often unaware that they are enrolled in a manufacturer's copay assistance program until they reach the pharmacy counter and find out that they must pay the full cost of the prescription to meet their deductible. Some patients are unable to pay, resulting in skipped or diluted doses and worsening health conditions. Ultimately, patients unable to access critical medication suffer poorer health outcomes, often leading to higher costs to the overall health system.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for Oregonians not to be punished for using copay assistance programs to help them afford medically necessary treatments. HB 4113 will allow patients to continue using copay assistance

to access their medications while also protecting them from surprise out-of-pocket costs. We urge your support.

Respectfully,

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