



February 9, 2023

The Honorable Earl L. Carter (R-GA)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nanette Barragán (D-CA)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Carter, Barragán, Clarke, Coleman, DeGette, Fitzpatrick, and Miller-Meeks:

The All Copays Count Coalition (ACCC), on behalf of the 75 undersigned organizations, expresses sincere thanks for your leadership in introducing H.R. 830, the Help Ensure Lower Patient Copays Act (HELP Copays Act). We pledge to work with you to ensure that this common-sense, bipartisan legislation becomes law.

The ACCC represents the interests of individuals living with serious, chronic health conditions for whom ongoing and continuous access to treatment is essential. And yet, these individuals often face multiple barriers to the therapies they need to treat their conditions, such as prior authorization and step therapy that limit or delay access to specialty medications. And once approved, patients often face skyrocketing deductibles and steep cost-sharing requirements. With no other options to afford the medicine they need, many patients turn to charitable or manufacturer copay assistance to afford their drugs. Unfortunately, many insurers are taking this assistance intended for patients and not counting it towards a patient's deductible and out-of-pocket maximum. This is yet another barrier for patients and can result in unexpected bills that could reach into the thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, this has all too often resulted in patients not being able to access their medications, and the number of heartbreaking stories is only growing.

We applaud this piece of legislation because it is a two-part solution that eliminates barriers to treatment for some of the most vulnerable Americans—those who live with serious, complex chronic illness—ensuring that they can afford the necessary and often life-saving medications prescribed by their providers. Specifically, the bipartisan HELP Copays Act:

- Requires health plans to count the value of copay assistance toward patient cost-sharing requirements. This would bring much-needed relief to financially vulnerable individuals by ensuring that all payments—whether they come directly out of a patient's pocket or with the help of copay assistance—count towards their out-of-pocket costs.

- Ends a practice by which many employer health plans deem certain covered drugs as “non-essential,” which means that the insurer will not count any cost-sharing toward the patient’s deductible and out-of-pocket maximum. Your bill will require all private plans to count all cost-sharing for covered services to accrue to a patient’s deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.

Together, these practices undermine coverage for pre-existing conditions, hurt patient access to necessary medications, decrease drug adherence, and even cost our health care system more money. We pledge to work with you to ensure that the HELP Copays Act becomes law, and these harmful practices end once and for all.

Sincerely,

All Copays Count Coalition Steering Committee

Arthritis Foundation
 Cancer Support Community
 Immune Deficiency Foundation
 National Hemophilia Foundation
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society
 The AIDS Institute

Member Organizations

2 For 2 Boobs, Inc.
 Accessia Health
 AIDS Foundation Chicago
 Aimed Alliance
 Alliance for Patient Access
 ALS Association
 American Kidney Fund
 Association for Clinical Oncology
 CancerCare
 Cervivor, Inc.
 Chronic Care Policy Alliance
 CLL Society, Inc.
 Coalition of Skin Diseases
 Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
 Community Oncology Alliance (COA)
 Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
 Cystic Fibrosis Research Institute
 Derma Care Action Network
 Diabetes Leadership Council
 Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
 Digestive Disease National Coalition
 Dystonia Advocacy Network
 Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
 Eastern PA Bleeding Disorders Foundation
 Epilepsy Foundation
 EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
 FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
 Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
 Georgia AIDS Coalition
 Global Healthy Living Foundation
 Haystack Project

HealthyWomen
 Hemophilia Alliance
 Hemophilia Council of California
 Hemophilia Federation of America
 HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
 HIV Medicine Association
 Hope Charities
 ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
 Infusion Access Foundation (IAF)
 International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
 International Myeloma Foundation
 Looms For Lupus
 LUNgevity Foundation
 Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
 Lupus Foundation of America
 METAvivor
 National Alopecia Areata Foundation
 National Consumers League
 National Eczema Association
 National Infusion Center Association (NICA)
 National Organization for Rare Disorders
 National Pancreas Foundation
 National Psoriasis Foundation
 National Scleroderma Foundation
 NCODA
 NephCure Kidney International
 Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
 Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation
 Patient Empowerment Network
 Platelet Disorder Support Association
 Project Sleep
 Pulmonary Hypertension Association
 Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
 Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA)
 Susan G. Komen
 Triage Cancer
 US Hereditary Angioedema Association
 wAIHA Warriors

