



**House Bill 469
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association
House Health Committee
June 2, 2020

Chair Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association.

On behalf of the more than 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, the American Diabetes Association urges your support for House Bill 469 which would ensure that the value of co-pay assistance programs is applied toward a patient's deductible.

This legislation is in response to individuals using co-pay coupons to help pay for expensive medications that the individual and the treating provider decided together to be the best course of treatment. Coupons distributed by the manufacturer are necessary for some patients to purchase life-saving medications. Therefore, payments made toward these medications should be counted towards the patient's cost sharing expenses.

Diabetes is a serious disease, and effectively managing it is a critical proposition. The American Diabetes Association believes that every person living with diabetes should have access to the care, treatments, tools and information they need to successfully manage their diabetes. It is vital that people with diabetes have the opportunity to work with their health care providers to choose the most appropriate therapeutic option that best meets their individual needs at that particular time. To ensure their access to life-saving treatment, the practice of co-pay accumulator adjustments must be eliminated.

Ensuring all people with and at risk for diabetes have access to adequate and affordable health care is among ADA's Legislative and Regulatory Priorities. HB 469 will help achieve that goal. To protect patients from facing unexpected out-of-pocket costs, the American Diabetes Association supports House Bill 469 and urges your support as well.

Thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at gdougherty@diabetes.org and I will do my best to answer them for you.

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