

June 1, 2020

Chairman Scott Lipps
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps,

The Arthritis Foundation encourages you to support HB 469, which would require any carrier issuing a health plan to count any payments made by a person or on a person's behalf when calculating the enrollee's overall contribution to any out-of-pocket maximum or any cost-sharing requirement under the carrier's health plan.

The Arthritis Foundation is the Champion of Yes. Leading the fight for the arthritis community, the Foundation helps conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections. We work on behalf of over 1,300,000 Ohio citizens, including children, who live with the chronic pain of arthritis every day.

Due to high cost-sharing requirements and the expensive cost of prescription medications, many patients with chronic and rare diseases depend on financial assistance for their specialty medications. Recently, healthplans have been instituting a practice where copayment assistance is no longer counted towards their out-of-pocket cost limits. Known as accumulator programs, this practice coupled with the rise of high deductible health plans (deductible of at least \$1,400 for an individual), makes it difficult, if not impossible, for patients to adhere to their treatment plan.

Many of these plan changes have also been implemented with little to no notification to the member. Patients may not be aware of the change in their plan until they arrive at the pharmacy to pick up their prescription and find out that they must pay for the full cost of the drug. Often times, patients walk away without their needed medication because they simply can not afford to pay. For those patients that do receive notification, the language can be difficult to understand, even for the most seasoned of healthcare experts. Further, some notifications mislead patients into believing that they will be protected when in fact they are not.

This bill seeks to address the issues above and would provide essential protections to ensure patients can both afford and stay stable on their medications. We ask for your support on HB 469. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide more information or if you have any questions. I can be reached at MBartlett@arthritis.org or (518)-217-6257.

Sincerely,



Mary Bartlett
State Director, Advocacy & Access

Cc:

Rep. Manning

Rep. Antani

Rep. Butler

Rep. Carruthers

Rep. Ginter

Rep. Grendell

Rep. Holmes

Rep. Keller

Rep. LaTourette

Rep. Plummer

Rep. Swearingen

Rep. Boyd

Rep. Clites

Rep. Lepore-Hagan

Rep. Liston

Rep. Russo

Rep. Upchurch

Rep. West

