

**State Representative Thomas E. West**

**49th Ohio House District**

**Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 469**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 469.

Rep. Manchester illustrated very well the problems patients encounter with “accumulator adjustment” clauses or other similar efforts by health plans to preclude various forms of copay assistance from being used.

Simply put, these policies preventing copay assistance put patients in a very difficult position, particularly those with rare conditions that often require expensive medication and high cost-sharing. This assistance – whether it be from drug manufacturers, churches, charities or even a family member – is critical both for these patients and for those with more common conditions to meet their financial obligations.

I’ve heard stories of patients rationing drugs or going without a dose to make their prescriptions last longer – no one should be put in this position, caught between a rock and a hard place. A constituent of mine with a rare bleeding disorder has lived this experience, along with countless others across our state.

That is why my joint sponsor and I are so keen on bringing House Bill 469 forward. Conversations around this bill have been happening in some form or fashion for about two years, so the time for action has now come. We have a diverse group of healthcare providers, patient advocates, and others in the healthcare space who have lined up in support of House Bill 469 and the patient protections it would provide.

We must come together to ensure that patients have access to copay assistance and all the other tools they need to live healthy, productive lives right here at home.

Thank you, and Rep. Manchester and I would now be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.