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Proponent Testimony, Ohio House Bill 469
Ohio House Health Committee
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Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd, and the members of the House Health Committee, on behalf of the clinicians, staff, and volunteers of Akron Children's Hospital, and the families we serve, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 469, sponsored by State Representatives West and Manchester.

As a significant provider of pediatric health services in Ohio, we see thousands of kids each year who have a serious medical condition and require prescription drugs to survive and thrive. For many of these families, covering the cost of their child's prescription is a challenge that requires significant planning and sacrifice. We know that parents are doing everything they can, which is why we believe HB 469 is an important piece of legislation to support these families.

Some patients who require high cost prescription drugs receive copay assistance from a pharmaceutical company or other source to help cover the cost of a drug. This support is invaluable to parents whose children require a prescription drug for a serious medical condition. Unfortunately, we are seeing a proliferation of copay accumulator adjuster programs that reduce the impact of copay assistance and drive up costs for patients.

HB 469 would prohibit these programs and require copay assistance payments to be applied to a patient's deductible and max out-of-pocket expense. So long as patients pay their copays when they pick up their drugs, the source of the payment shouldn't matter. For patients with a high deductible plan who rely on expensive prescription drugs, HB 469 could be the difference between spending thousands to meet the deductible after a copay assistance card is depleted.

This legislation is important to the families we serve and we urge your support for HB 469. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.