



The Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) supports HB 469

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the Ohio House Health Committee,

On behalf of BIO, the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations, we ask for your support of HB 469.

In recent years, health insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) have increasingly shifted an ever-greater share of the costs for specialty prescription medicines to their patients and beneficiaries. The cost-sharing requirements set by insurers for prescription medicines are often uniquely burdensome relative to other types of health care. For example, most patients are required to pay on average nearly five times more out of pocket for drugs than for hospital stays.

To offset these costs, many pharmaceutical companies offer programs that assist patients with their out of pocket costs, including deductibles and co-pays, for their prescriptions. Recently, insurance plans and PBMs have been implementing so-called "copay accumulator" programs, which prevent funds provided by these assistance programs from applying to a patient's out of pocket maximum or deductible. This can leave patients with steep costs to meet their deductible or out of pocket maximum when the value of patient assistance is exhausted.

BIO and its member companies support HB 469 that will require health plans to include all amounts paid by a covered individual or on a covered individual's behalf when calculating the covered individual's contribution toward a cost-sharing requirement.

Thank you for your consideration of BIO's position and your support for HB 469.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Greg Hoke
Director, State Government Affairs