

I am writing to submit my testimony for house bill 469. A little backstory about me, I have struggled with crohn's disease since I was 12 years old. I am currently 28 years old and have been on Humira for about 3 years. When I originally started taking Humira, I was made aware of an amazing copay program to help assist in the cost of the extremely expensive medication. For the next 2 years, I was able to use the generous \$16000 dollars on my card to help mitigate the cost of Humira, while also reaching my insurance deductible so when the money ran out I was able to get full coverage on my medication. It allowed me to afford a medication that otherwise would have been out of reach for me as a full-time student and working in the restaurant industry. Unfortunately, that changed this year in 2020, and it was a surprise to me. I ordered my medication as normal, using the copay card first and then my insurance, but imagine my surprise when I tried to order my medication in May and was unable to due to an outstanding \$4696 bill. I was devastated and needed to find a solution fast as my Humira was due to be injected in 1 week. The worst part about this was I still tried to order my medication 3 times, each time waiting for the due date the pharmacy said they would send it before realizing, without my knowledge, the transaction had been cancelled. It was now near the end of June and I still didn't have my medication. I was a month late on my dose and feeling worse and worse until I was able to scrounge up the money to pay the bill and finally obtain my medication that I so desperately needed. This delay may also have resulted in complications of my crohn's disease that happened in september and that I am still battling against. Due to insurances not allowing the copay card to pay for this ridiculously expensive medicine, I may have to budget an extra \$10000 on top of the already extremely high premiums that I already have to pay, just to get the shot at having a pain free life. I hope that my testimony can help push this bill through so that not only myself, but many others can be relieved of some stress from the ongoing struggle against insurance companies. If you have any questions or would like clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,
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