



March 9, 2021

Ohio House of Representatives
Health Committee
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Ohio House Bill 135 - Prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Russo and Members of the Committee:

As the statewide organization since 1988, representing more than 300 entities employing over 100,000 individuals in Ohio's bioscience community, BioOhio submits this testimony in support of HB 135, to prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices.

Our members are curing debilitating pediatric diseases, creating less invasive surgical tools, programming highly accurate diagnostic imaging techniques, improving provider processes to reduce patient costs, personalizing medication delivery for individual patients, and much more. Patients are at the heart of the bioscience industry, which is why we support HB 135.

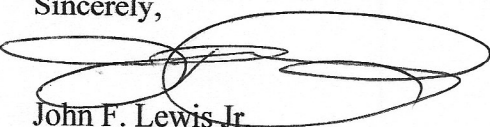
Health insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) have increasingly shifted a greater share of the costs for specialty prescription medicines to their patients and beneficiaries. One practice involves copay accumulator adjustment policies which disallow manufacturer, charitable copay, or other third-party assistance to apply to a patient's out of pocket maximum or deductible. This discriminatory practice most often impacts the patients who need medicines for chronic or rare conditions.

Accumulator policies leave Ohio patients with overwhelming costs to meet their deductible or out of pocket maximum when the value of patient assistance is exhausted. Co-pay accumulator programs are particularly problematic for Ohioans with high-deductible health plans, who can face deductibles of more than \$7,000 before their coverage takes effect.

BioOhio believes all patients should be able to utilize the full benefit of any patient assistance programs. We urge the General Assembly's support in enacting this legislation and provide much needed relief for Ohioans facing overwhelming costs for their prescription medications.

For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jlewis@bioohio.com.

Sincerely,



John F. Lewis Jr.
President & CEO
BioOhio

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