

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to you today in support of HB 135: To Prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices. I am a rare disease patient advocate, a medically complex individual who requires many medications including a Immune Globulin (IG) derived from human plasma, as well as the sister of a Type 1 Diabetic, who requires insulin.

Co-pay accumulator policies are harmful to people like me and my brother, as well as to the many of your constituents who require expensive medications that come from limited resources, such as insulin and immune globulin, more commonly known as IVIG (when given in the veins) or SCIG (when given under the skin, subcutaneously). We are living in a time when there are more and more treatments available for rare disease patients like myself to try, but unfortunately these medications are often extremely expensive, and sometimes cost-prohibitive. Receiving IG treatment has greatly improved my life with a Primary Immunodeficiency, but it also costs \$7000 every 2 weeks, before insurance. I am required by my insurance company to receive co-pay assistance, and I do, but imagine all of the additional out of pocket expenses we must take on, when these treatments do not count towards our maximum.

I am extremely fortunate that we can afford my medical care, but others like my brother, a first year teacher out of college, are harder pressed at times. Please support the prohibition of these harmful practices, in order to protect your constituents with medical needs.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Sara E.B. Sharpe, M.S., Ed.S.  
Rare Disease Patient Advocate