

# Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

## American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Scott Lipps  
Chairman, Public Health Policy Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Public Health Policy Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 177, sponsored by State Representative Susan Manchester.

This legislation would prohibit health plans from implementing copay adjuster programs that are harmful to patients in need of expensive prescription drugs. Our members believe that this legislation will provide much needed relief to families who rely on copay assistance programs to help cover the cost of prescription drugs for their children.

Many children with chronic or serious medical conditions require prescription drugs as part of their daily lives. Given that many of these drugs can be expensive, some patients qualify for copay assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical companies or charities. These programs have a significant and positive impact on the families who receive them.

HB 177 would ensure that any copay assistance used would count towards a patient's deductible. This is critical for parents of medically fragile children who often struggle to afford prescriptions, medical bills, and other essentials of daily living.

It is my hope that the committee will favorably report HB 177 in the near future. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Werve Arnold".

Melissa Werve Arnold  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

---

#### Ohio Chapter

94-A Northwoods Blvd, Columbus, OH 43235 • Phone: (614)846-6258 • Fax: (614)846-4025 • [chapter@ohioaap.org](mailto:chapter@ohioaap.org) • [www.ohioaap.org](http://www.ohioaap.org)

#### President

Christopher Peltier, MD, FAAP  
Email: [chris.peltier@cchmc.org](mailto:chris.peltier@cchmc.org)

#### President-Elect

Kelsey Logan, MD, MPH, FAAP, FACP  
Email: [kelsey.logan@cchmc.org](mailto:kelsey.logan@cchmc.org)

#### Chief Executive Officer

Melissa Werve Arnold  
Email: [marnold@ohioaap.org](mailto:marnold@ohioaap.org)

#### Immediate Past President

Jill Fitch, MD, FAAP  
Email: [jill.fitch@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:jill.fitch@nationwidechildrens.org)