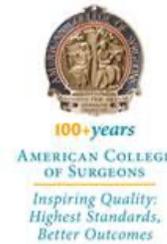


ACS Chapters | Ohio



October 11th, 2023

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

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Ohio House Public Health Policy Committee—

On behalf of the Fellows of the American College of Surgeons who call Ohio home, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 177, sponsored by State Representative Susan Manchester. This bill would protect patients from harmful programs that diminish the impact of copay assistance programs.

Many patients with a rare disease or serious medical condition will require intervention by a surgeon during their course of treatment. Further, these patients will often rely on high-cost prescription drugs to manage their disease. Patient access to necessary prescription drugs is vital to ensuring the success of a surgical intervention. Any disruptions to drug access can have an adverse impact on the patient. Often, patients receiving high-cost drugs will receive copay assistance from a manufacturer, charity, or other source. This assistance can be the key to patients being able to afford their drugs.

We are concerned over the emergence of copay accumulator adjuster programs that seek to reduce the impact of copay assistance. Under these programs, health plans do not apply third party copay assistance to a patient's deductible. As a result, patients must still pay thousands of dollars out of pocket after exhausting their copay assistance. These programs only benefit health plans and place patients at a significant disadvantage.

Passage of HB 177 is critical to Ohioans suffering from cancer or who have been diagnosed with a rare disease. For surgeons who treat these patients, HB 177 will help ensure patient access to prescription drugs is protected. I greatly appreciate your consideration and urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Alisha Reiss, MD, FACS
President
Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons