

***Proponent Testimony on House Bill 177
House Health Policy Committee
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The Community Oncology Alliance (COA) thanks the House Health Policy Committee for its work in considering House Bill 177 and the negative impact Accumulator Adjustment Programs have on Ohioans living with cancer. COA is the only nonprofit organization in the United States dedicated solely to independent community oncology practices, which serve the majority of Americans receiving treatment for cancer.

The Community Oncology Alliance, alongside our Ohio partners and practices, stand vehemently opposed to accumulator adjustment policies. Despite the significant strides made in the field of oncology, Ohioans battling cancer still find themselves among the most vulnerable patient groups in our state.

Many patients struggle to meet their deductible and pay copays for the high-cost drugs they need to treat serious, sometimes life-threatening, illnesses like cancer. Some drug manufacturers offer copay cards to commercially insured patients to help them afford their prescription medications. Accumulator programs instituted by insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBM) prevent patients from accessing these, and other third-party assistance programs that are meant to ease the financial burden of cancer.

Opponents of HB 177 have made the false accusation that this bill could drive patients toward higher cost drugs, but the truth of the matter is that patients living with chronic and complex conditions often have no generic alternatives for their prescribed specialty medications. That is why this bill only applies to drugs with no generic equivalent.

In recent years, we have noticed an alarming trend among insurers and PBMs that assumes treatment decisions can be made solely on financial considerations. Accumulator adjustment programs fall in line with this form of utilization management, and often produce a dangerous calculation contributing to poor health outcomes. That is why we whole-heartedly believe these decisions should be left between a patient and their doctor.

As the assembly deliberates this critical legislation, we urge the House Health Policy Committee to pass HB 177 and outlaw the use of PBM accumulator policies in Ohio. For a more indepth look at this issue, we invite you to review the [Community Oncology Alliance's Position Statement on Accumulator Adjustment Programs](#) and the harmful impact on patient outcomes. We want to underscore our willingness to offer further assistance or insights as you navigate this and future legislation. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us.