



**House Bill 469
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
House Health Committee
November 10, 2020

Chairman Lipps and Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association.

On June 2, I submitted written testimony on behalf of the more than 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, sharing the support of the American Diabetes Association® (ADA) for House Bill 469. As you know, this legislation seeks to ensure that the value of co-pay assistance programs is applied toward a patient's deductible.

Whereas I am unable to join you today, I simply wanted to reinforce the support of the ADA for this important legislation.

Diabetes is a serious disease and must be managed according to the needs of each individual person. The ADA believes that every person living with diabetes should be able to work with their health care provider to choose the most effective treatment to best meet their individual needs and successfully manage their diabetes.

HB 469 recognizes that many folks use co-pay coupons to help pay for expensive medications that their health care provider has determined to be the best course of treatment and, as you know, these coupons are necessary for some patients to purchase life-saving medications. To ensure their access to life-saving treatment, the practice of co-pay accumulator adjustments must be eliminated.

Ensuring all people with and at risk for diabetes have access to adequate and affordable health care is among ADA's principal policy priorities. HB 469 will help achieve that goal. To protect patients from facing unexpected out-of-pocket costs, and on behalf of the more than 4.3 million Ohioans with or at risk for diabetes, the American Diabetes Association supports House Bill 469 and urges your support as well.

Thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at gdougherty@diabetes.org and I will do my best to answer them for you.

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