



***Written Testimony Supporting HB 135
Submitted to the Senate Health Committee
November 30, 2022
By Susan G. Komen***

Chairman Huffman, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 135, which relates to prohibiting certain health insurance cost-sharing practices. My name is Dana Carter, and I am the Regional Manager of State Policy & Advocacy for the North Central region for Susan G. Komen®.

Recently, health insurers have instituted “copay accumulator adjustment programs” which prevent payments made by copay assistance from drug manufacturers and nonprofits from counting toward a patient’s annual cost sharing requirements. HB 135 will help Ohioans continue to access the treatments they need by ensuring all expenses made by or on behalf of a patient count toward their cost sharing requirements.

According to a recent study of claims data, a vast majority of copay assistance is used for treatments that do not have a generic alternative. Unfortunately, many patients are not aware that the copay assistance was not counted toward their deductible or out-of-pocket maximum until they have to pay hundreds to thousands of dollars out of pocket to continue their treatments.

A patient should not be forced to abandon their treatment or skip doses due to costs. Studies have shown that patients are far more likely to abandon their treatment when out-of-pocket costs exceed \$100. Unfortunately, we hear from patients who have been forced to stop using their medications due to the high out of pocket costs that end up having an increase in negative health outcomes and hospital visits-ultimately resulting in increases to overall health care costs.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for Ohio breast cancer patients to not be punished for using copay assistance in helping them afford their necessary treatments. As such, we support HB 135 and urge you to pass this critical legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.