

House Public Health Policy Committee

November 14, 2023

Chair Lipps and members of the Public Health Policy Committee,

On behalf of more than 3 million Ohio residents with doctor-diagnosed arthritis, thank you for the opportunity to submit additional testimony in support of HB 177, which addresses copay accumulator adjustment programs.

During opposition testimony, several false claims were made including that HB 177 will mean patients will not have any “skin-in-the-game” when it comes to their healthcare costs. Patients with arthritis and other chronic and life-threatening illness spend hundreds if not thousands of dollars in premiums, deductibles, copays, co-insurance and other costs related to managing their healthcare every year. Health insurers should not be allowed to deny a patient the ability to fully utilize the benefits of copayment assistance when they need it. In fact, many patients with chronic diseases are on high deductible plans and often pay more in copayments annually than other patients.

There was also a claim that HB 177 would drive or “steer” patients away from generic medications. Patients with chronic diseases often do not have the option of a generic medication and further, HB 177 in its current form does not apply to drugs that have a generic version. The bill explicitly states that it does not apply “in the case of a prescription drug for which there is generic alternative”. Insurance companies control patients’ access to all drugs through formularies, prior authorization, and other utilization management tools. Copayment assistance is only used by patients for drugs approved for coverage by their insurance company.

Thank you for the opportunity to clear up these points and for your consideration in support of HB 177, which would ensure all copayments count for patients in Ohio.



Melissa Horn
Director of State Legislative Affairs
Arthritis Foundation
1615 L St. NW Suite 320
Washington, D.C. 20036
240.468.7464 | mhorn@arthritis.org