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House Bill 177 Proponent Testimony  
House Public Health Policy Committee

November 15, 2023

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Robert Popovian; I am the Chief Science Policy Officer of the Global Healthy Living Foundation (GHLF).

GHLF is the umbrella organization for disease-specific patient communities. A full explanation of our activities, organizations, and funding sources is available on our [homepage](#), and we invite all healthcare stakeholders to view our [quarterly reports](#) detailing the multitude of patient-centered innovations that GHLF has led over its 24-year history.

I am writing in support of HB 177. The passage of this legislation will ensure that patient support provided by any entity, including the biopharmaceutical manufacturers, is only utilized for the benefit of the designated patient and that all of the support counts towards a patient's health insurance deductible and maximum out-of-pocket liability. Our interactive [tool](#) demonstrates that state laws guaranteeing that all patient assistance benefits count towards a patient's deductible and maximum out-of-pocket liability have not increased the cost of health insurance. We have done inter and intra state analysis concerning premiums. In both cases, absolutely no statistical, numerical, or visual evidence suggests that such laws impact health insurance premiums in states that have passed laws protecting patients (19 states) versus those that have not yet done so.

It is essential also to note that two politically diverse states, New York and Texas, have passed similar laws guaranteeing that for-profit pharmacy benefit management (PBM) and insurance companies are not confiscating the manufacturer's support, while patients are saddled with high deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums. Patients in Ohio need similar protection. PBMs and insurers should not be allowed to collect assistance meant for patients and then punish patients and make them pay for the entire deductible or maximum out-of-pocket expenses. You need to stop this double-dipping scheme espoused upon patients needing life-saving medicines. It is time to stop middlemen from punishing sick patients for profit.

GHLF invites everyone to visit our free interactive [site](#) and transparently explore the data for themselves. All of the data utilized in calculating premiums has been captured through the HIX database, a program sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Thank You,

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Cc: Louise Tharp, Executive Director, GHLF