



February 9, 2023

The Honorable Earl L. Carter (R-GA)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nanette Barragán (D-CA)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Carter, Barragán, Clarke, Coleman, DeGette, Fitzpatrick, and Miller-Meeks:

The All Copays Count Coalition (ACCC), on behalf of the 75 undersigned organizations, expresses sincere thanks for your leadership in introducing H.R. 830, the Help Ensure Lower Patient Copays Act (HELP Copays Act). We pledge to work with you to ensure that this common-sense, bipartisan legislation becomes law.

The ACCC represents the interests of individuals living with serious, chronic health conditions for whom ongoing and continuous access to treatment is essential. And yet, these individuals often face multiple barriers to the therapies they need to treat their conditions, such as prior authorization and step therapy that limit or delay access to specialty medications. And once approved, patients often face skyrocketing deductibles and steep cost-sharing requirements. With no other options to afford the medicine they need, many patients turn to charitable or manufacturer copay assistance to afford their drugs. Unfortunately, many insurers are taking this assistance intended for patients and not counting it towards a patient's deductible and out-of-pocket maximum. This is yet another barrier for patients and can result in unexpected bills that could reach into the thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, this has all too often resulted in patients not being able to access their medications, and the number of heartbreaking stories is only growing.

We applaud this piece of legislation because it is a two-part solution that eliminates barriers to treatment for some of the most vulnerable Americans—those who live with serious, complex chronic illness—ensuring that they can afford the necessary and often life-saving medications prescribed by their providers. Specifically, the bipartisan HELP Copays Act:

- Requires health plans to count the value of copay assistance toward patient cost-sharing requirements. This would bring much-needed relief to financially vulnerable individuals by ensuring that all payments—whether they come directly out of a patient's pocket or with the help of copay assistance—count towards their out-of-pocket costs.

- Ends a practice by which many employer health plans deem certain covered drugs as “non-essential,” which means that the insurer will not count any cost-sharing toward the patient’s deductible and out-of-pocket maximum. Your bill will require all private plans to count all cost-sharing for covered services to accrue to a patient’s deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.

Together, these practices undermine coverage for pre-existing conditions, hurt patient access to necessary medications, decrease drug adherence, and even cost our health care system more money. We pledge to work with you to ensure that the HELP Copays Act becomes law, and these harmful practices end once and for all.

Sincerely,

*All Copays Count Coalition Steering Committee*

Arthritis Foundation  
 Cancer Support Community  
 Immune Deficiency Foundation  
 National Hemophilia Foundation  
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
 The AIDS Institute

*Member Organizations*

2 For 2 Boobs, Inc.  
 Accessia Health  
 AIDS Foundation Chicago  
 Aimed Alliance  
 Alliance for Patient Access  
 ALS Association  
 American Kidney Fund  
 Association for Clinical Oncology  
 CancerCare  
 Cervivor, Inc.  
 Chronic Care Policy Alliance  
 CLL Society, Inc.  
 Coalition of Skin Diseases  
 Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
 Community Oncology Alliance (COA)  
 Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
 Cystic Fibrosis Research Institute  
 Derma Care Action Network  
 Diabetes Leadership Council  
 Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition  
 Digestive Disease National Coalition  
 Dystonia Advocacy Network  
 Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
 Eastern PA Bleeding Disorders Foundation  
 Epilepsy Foundation  
 EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases  
 FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
 Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
 Georgia AIDS Coalition  
 Global Healthy Living Foundation  
 Haystack Project

HealthyWomen  
 Hemophilia Alliance  
 Hemophilia Council of California  
 Hemophilia Federation of America  
 HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute  
 HIV Medicine Association  
 Hope Charities  
 ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network  
 Infusion Access Foundation (IAF)  
 International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders  
 International Myeloma Foundation  
 Looms For Lupus  
 LUNGeivity Foundation  
 Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
 Lupus Foundation of America  
 METAvivor  
 National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
 National Consumers League  
 National Eczema Association  
 National Infusion Center Association (NICA)  
 National Organization for Rare Disorders  
 National Pancreas Foundation  
 National Psoriasis Foundation  
 National Scleroderma Foundation  
 NCODA  
 NephCure Kidney International  
 Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance  
 Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation  
 Patient Empowerment Network  
 Platelet Disorder Support Association  
 Project Sleep  
 Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
 Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
 Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA)  
 Susan G. Komen  
 Triage Cancer  
 US Hereditary Angioedema Association  
 wAIHA Warriors

