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Contact:

Jen Daly/Gray Media

860.398.3916

daly@graymediagroup.com

CONNECTICUT PATIENT GROUPS THANK GOVERNOR LAMONT FOR SIGNING BAN ON CO-PAY ACCUMULATOR PROGRAMS

PA 21-14 prohibits use of co-pay accumulator programs, which cause financial hardship for residents with a chronic condition.

(Hartford, Conn., June 3, 2021) Advocates representing thousands of patients from across Connecticut today praised Governor Ned Lamont for signing into law legislation that prohibits the use of co-pay accumulator programs. His action follows the legislation seeing overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and the state Senate.

With Governor Lamont's signature, Connecticut becomes the 11th state (including Puerto Rico) to pass legislation to ban co-pay accumulator programs. The other states that have passed similar legislation are: AR, AZ, GA, IL, KY, OK, PR, TN, VA and WV.

This legislation is critical to any patient using manufacture assistance to defray the out-of-pocket costs passed on to them by insurance companies.

Drug manufacturers have long offered manufacture assistance to help patients with their high-cost co-pays. Until recently, insurers applied the total cost paid—what the discount covered and what the patient paid out of pocket to the patient's insurance deductible.

However, with co-pay accumulator programs, **only** the amount that the patient pays directly out of pocket would count towards their deductible—not what the manufacturer program puts toward the cost of the medication. This results in the patient paying more out of pocket to reach their deductible and the insurer being paid twice.

“Today is a great day for Connecticut patients who would have been forced to pay more for their treatments, while insurance companies got paid twice,” said Richard Pezzillo, Executive Director of the New England Hemophilia Association. “Thank you to all of the lawmakers who showed such strong support for this patient protection policy, and to Governor Lamont for giving those with a chronic condition a much-needed voice.”

NEHA joined 22 other organizations (listed below) to support PA 21-14 which advocated to put the needs of patients ahead of insurance industry profits.

The legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2022.

Alliance for Patient Access
American Kidney Fund
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical Oncology
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Connecticut Hemophilia Society
Connecticut Oncology Association
Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Hemophilia Federation of America
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
Susan G. Komen Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
National Alliance on Mental Illness Connecticut
National Eczema Association
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
New England Bleeding Disorders Advocacy Coalition
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
U.S. Pain Foundation

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