

21 Patient Advocacy Organizations (Names Below), In Support of SB 1003, *An Act Prohibiting Certain Health Carriers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers from Employing Copay Accumulator Programs*

Senator Matt Lesser
Co-Chair, Insurance & Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative Kerry Wood
Co-Chair, Insurance & Real Estate Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2800
Hartford, CT 06106

Chairman Lesser, Chairwoman Wood and members of the committee,

We, the undersigned, want to express our support for SB 1003, a much-needed bill that will protect patient access to co-pay assistance programs many Connecticut residents depend on to cover significant portions of prescription medicine co-pays. We thank you for raising the legislation and scheduling today's hearing on this measure as this gives the patient advocacy community the opportunity to express how vitally important this measure is to many in our state.

The need for co-pay assistance for prescription medicine is especially critical for consumers whose high deductible health insurance plans require them to spend thousands of dollars before their insurance kicks in. For many, this high-cost sharing requirement makes it impossible for them to afford medications needed to treat a range of chronic and sometimes rare diseases without the co-pay assistance offered by a number of pharmaceutical manufacturers and other organizations.

In introducing SB 1003, you and your fellow co-sponsors have taken an important step in codifying the protections patients needed to maintain access to co-pay assistance programs. As Connecticut continues to recover from the deadly impact of COVID-19, ensuring access to the medical care our residents need has never been more important.

Many of us represent patients in the neighboring states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We are heartened that the legislatures in these states are also considering bills that will ensure similar patient access to co-pay assistance programs. We hope the Connecticut legislature can take the lead on this issue in ensuring that everyone has access to life-sustaining medication.

Our thanks again for raising this important legislation. Some of us who have signed this letter will also be testifying virtually today to provide more details on how critically important co-pay assistance programs are for individuals with different types of chronic diseases.

Sincerely,

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR SIGNATORS

Alliance for Patient Access, Charles Husser
American Kidney Fund, Lindsay Gill
Arthritis Foundation, Steven Schultz
Association for Clinical Oncology, Allison Rollins
Chronic Care Policy Alliance, Lawrence LaMotte
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, Brian Henderson
Connecticut Hemophilia Society, Meagan Murray
Connecticut Oncology Association, Dawn Holcombe
Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut, Mike Finley
Global Healthy Living Foundation, Corey Greenblatt
Hemophilia Federation of America, Miriam Goldstein
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute, Carl Schmid
Susan G. Komen Foundation, Steven Raga
National Alliance on Mental Illness Connecticut, Lisa Winjum
National Eczema Association, Michele Guadalupe
National Hemophilia Foundation, Nathan Schaefer
National Psoriasis Foundation, Kristen Stiffler
New England Bleeding Disorders Advocacy Coalition, Joe Zamboni
New England Hemophilia Association, Rich Pezzillo
Pulmonary Hypertension Association, Katie Kroner
U.S. Pain Foundation, Cindy Steinberg