

November 29, 2021

The Honorable A. Donald McEachin (D-VA)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis (R-IL)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McEachin and Congressman Davis,

We are writing to express our sincere thanks to you for your leadership in introducing HR 5801, the Help Ensure Lower Patient Copays Act (HELP Copays Act) and pledge to work with you to ensure that this common-sense, bipartisan legislation becomes law.

People living with serious, chronic health conditions often face multiple barriers to the therapies they need to treat their conditions, such as administrative hurdles like prior authorization and step therapy that limit 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. But now, they are faced with an additional barrier and unexpected bills that could reach in the thousands of dollars because their insurance plan will not count the copay assistance they get toward their annual deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

We applaud your 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 doctors:

- 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.
- Your legislation also closes a loophole that allows many employer health plans to 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 medicines, 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,

National Organizations

AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families  
Aimed Alliance  
Alliance for Balanced Pain Management  
Alliance for Patient Access

Alpha-1 Foundation  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Liver Foundation  
American Medical Association  
American Society of Hematology  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Women in Rheumatology  
Autoimmune Association  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Caregiver Action Network  
Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation  
Chronic Care Policy Alliance  
Clinical Neurological Society of America  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Community Liver Alliance  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Derma Care Access Network  
Diabetes Leadership Council  
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
FORCE - Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
Haystack Project  
Hemophilia Alliance  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
Hepatitis B Foundation and Hep B United  
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute  
HIV Medicine Association  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International Myeloma Foundation  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lupus Foundation of America  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
METAvivor  
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition  
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America  
NASTAD  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Consumers League (NCL)

National Council for Mental Wellbeing  
National Eczema Association  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Infusion Center Association (NICA)  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Pancreas Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
NephCure Kidney International  
Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance  
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation  
Patient Services, Inc.  
Project Sleep  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
RNS  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Spondylitis Association of America  
Susan G. Komen  
The AIDS Institute  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association

#### State-Level Organizations

AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
Alaska Hemophilia Association  
Alaska Rheumatology Alliance  
APLA Health  
Arkansas Rheumatology Association  
Asian Health Coalition  
Bleeding Disorders Association of Northeastern NY  
Bleeding Disorders Association of South Carolina, formerly Hemophilia of South Carolina  
California Chronic Care Coalition  
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups  
CommuniCare Health Centers, San Antonio, TX  
Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit  
Connecticut Hemophilia Society  
Florida Society of Rheumatology  
Georgia Society of Rheumatology  
Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation  
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center  
Hawai'i Parkinson Association  
HD Reach  
Hemophilia Alliance of Maine  
Hemophilia Association of New York, Inc.  
Hemophilia Association of the Capital Area

Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan  
Hemophilia Foundation of Southern California  
Hemophilia of North Carolina  
Hemophilia Services Consortium, Inc  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Lone Star Bleeding Disorders Foundation  
Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation  
Mary M. Gooley Hemophilia Center  
Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire Rheumatology Association  
Mercy Housing and Human Development  
Michigan Rheumatism Society  
Midwest Hemophilia Association  
MidWest Rheumatology Association  
Nebraska Rheumatology Society  
Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative  
New England Bleeding Disorder Advocacy Coalition (NEBDAC)  
New England Hemophilia Association  
New York Blood Center  
New York City Hemophilia Chapter  
New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition  
North Carolina Rheumatology Association  
Ohio Association of Rheumatology  
Oklahoma Hemophilia Foundation  
Oregon Rheumatology Alliance  
Pacific Northwest Bleeding Disorders  
Pennsylvania Rheumatology Society  
Rheumatology Association of Minnesota and the Dakotas  
Rheumatology care center  
Rocky Mountain Hemophilia & Bleeding Disorders Association  
Sangre de Oro  
SisterLove, Inc.  
South Carolina Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders Advocacy Coalition  
Southwestern Ohio Hemophilia Foundation  
State of Texas Association of Rheumatologists (STAR)  
Texas Bleeding Disorders Coalition  
Texas Central Bleeding Disorders  
Texas Rare Alliance  
Texas Rheumatology Care  
The Wisconsin Rheumatology Association  
United Hemophilia Foundation  
Virginia Hemophilia Foundation  
Virginia Society of Rheumatology  
Vivent Health  
Washington Rheumatology Alliance  
Western Pennsylvania Bleeding Disorders Foundation  
WNY BloodCare