

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S5299 RIVERA / A1741 GOTTFRIED HELP KEEP PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION AFFORDABLE TO PATIENTS

The following groups support S5299/A1741

- Aimed Alliance
- Allergy & Asthma Network
- Alliance for Patient Access
- American Association of Clinical Urologists
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American College of Rheumatology
- American Diabetes Association
- American Kidney Fund
- American Liver Foundation
- American Urological Association
- Arthritis Foundation
- Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health
- Bleeding Disorders Advocacy Network
- Bleeding Disorders Association of Northeastern New York
- Bleeding Disorders Association of the Southern Tier
- Cancer Support Community
- Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York
- Coalition for Hemophilia B
- Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
- Color of Crohn's and Chronic Illness
- Empire State Hematology & Oncology Society
- Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern NY
- Global Healthy Living Foundation
- Hemophilia Association of New York
- Hemophilia Federation of America
- HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
- Immune Deficiency Foundation
- Infusion Access Foundation
- Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
- Mary Gooley Treatment Center
- Medical Society of the State of New York
- Mended Hearts
- Mental Health Association in New York State
- Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
- NAACP New York State Conference
- National Alliance on Mental Illness - NYS
- National Hemophilia Foundation
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Infusion Center Association
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- National Organization for Rare Disorders
- National Psoriasis Foundation
- New York Blood Center
- New York Chapter American College of Physicians Services, Inc.
- New York City Hemophilia Chapter
- New York Oncology Hematology
- New York State Academy of Family Physicians
- New York State Association for Rural Health
- New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition
- New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
- New York State Rheumatology Society
- New York State Society of Anesthesiologists
- New York State Urological Society
- Northeast Kidney Foundation
- NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, Chapters 1, 2 & 3
- NYS Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- Patients Rising Now
- Pharmacists Society State of New York
- Rheumatology Nurses Society
- Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Sick Cell Thalassemia Patients Network
- Sobre a Vivir – A Will To Live
- Susan G. Komen
- The AIDS Institute
- Western New York Blood Care

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New York has a strong record in leading the nation in providing access to affordable health coverage. Despite the strides the state has made in expanding coverage, many New Yorkers still face hardship when faced with prescription drug costs.

New Yorkers and other American are experiencing hardships in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. A nationwide ACS CAN survey found that 46% of cancer patients and survivors reported a change in their ability to pay for care during the pandemic. Chronically ill patients dealing with a wide range of conditions face the additional challenge of being able to afford and access their medication and care.

Copay assistance programs can give patients access to a lifesaving medication they may otherwise not be able to afford. ***Copay accumulators make it more challenging for patients to afford their medication.***

Copay accumulators are a relatively new insurance benefit design being adopted by some insurance plans. **Copay accumulators prevent patients from using a copay card or coupon to cover their out-of-pocket expenses.**

Under this design, when a patient uses a copay coupon or card, the health plan receives the payment from the card or coupon, yet the amount of the support provided by the coupon/card does NOT count toward the patient's maximum out of pocket limit.

This unfair design can be especially challenging for patients that have health insurance plans with high deductible or high copayment requirements.

We strongly urge the adoption of S5299 / A1741 to end this practice and assist all patients with out-of-pocket expenses.

For more information contact Michael.Davoli@cancer.org

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We Support S5299 / A1741

