

Ohio Cancer Action Day 2022

POLICY OVERVIEW AND LEGISLATIVE ASK



Copay Accumulator – HB 135

Offset cost sharing for expensive medications

Copay coupons and copay cards can provide needed financial relief to cancer patients and other Ohioans who rely on costly medications. These coupon programs are offered by manufacturers and other third parties to patients to help offset the cost sharing associated with high cost drugs. Copay assistance programs can give patients access to a lifesaving medication they may otherwise not be able to afford.

Allow Ohioans to fully benefit from copay assistance programs

A 2019 survey from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) revealed that 17% of cancer patients reported using a manufacturer's coupon or copay assistance program to help them afford copays for their medications. Unfortunately, many insurance plans do not apply the value of these coupons and copay assistance programs to a patient's deductible or out-of-pocket maximum, leaving patients with unaffordable drug bills once the balance of their coupon has been exhausted. This insurance practice harms patients while allowing insurance companies to "double dip" – taking both the patient's dollars and the value of the coupons. Passing HB 135 would help patients meet their maximum out of pocket limit and fully benefit from utilizing a copay coupon.

2022 Ask: Will you support the passage of HB 135, the copay accumulator bill? Will you ask Speaker Cupp to bring it to the floor for a vote?

Quick Facts:

- 12 states have passed similar legislation.
- This bill was passed unanimously out of the House Health Committee in March of 2021.
- A 2018 study found that a third of cancer patients abandon their prescription at the pharmacy if they face an out-of-pocket cost between \$100 and \$500.

Patient Perspective:



"I am a 46-year Hodgkins disease survivor. After treatments, I slammed the door on my cancerous past. I would soon realize that the treatments that saved my life would haunt me for the remainder of my life. I lost the ability to bear children, my immune function was compromised, I developed a heart valve defect, intense scarring on my lungs and severe bone density problems. The osteoporosis I developed at such a young age require costly semi-annual injections. At the recommendation of my primary care physician I contacted the maker of this medication and was elated to receive \$1,500 assistance per injection but quickly learned that assistance did not count toward my co-pay, rendering it basically non-existent. **HB 135 will help Ohioans like me plan for and afford critical life-saving medications.**"

- Julie Turner, Tipp City