



Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for HB 4113**

Feb. 7, 2024

Chair Nosse, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4113, which ensures that patients are not forced to pay twice — or more — for lifesaving treatment. This bill would ensure that any financial assistance that a patient receives is counted toward their contribution to an out-of-pocket maximum, deductible, copayment, coinsurance, or other required cost-sharing obligations.

The Chronic Disease Coalition is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to raising the patient voice and perspective in healthcare policymaking. The coalition was founded in 2015 to advocate for people living with long-term or lifelong health conditions. Our patient advisors and partners represent common diseases (e.g., diabetes, kidney disease, arthritis), rare diseases (e.g., Guillain-Barré syndrome, hypoparathyroidism), and many other conditions whose scale and scope are still not understood.

Many chronic disease patients and their families rely on various types of copay assistance to afford the medications they need to manage their conditions. Unfortunately, insurers continue to implement programs that ban all third-party copay assistance — real dollars paid to the insurer — from counting towards patients' out-of-pocket costs. This forces chronic disease patients to pay more for their treatment while dissuading charitable assistance for future patients.

We understand that many pharmaceutical manufacturers support patient assistance programs by providing funds for what are commonly known as copay coupons or manufacturer copay cards. Copay accumulator programs or accumulator adjustment programs maximize the use of copay assistance without assisting in the patient's deductible, leaving chronic disease patients with exorbitant out-of-pocket costs on top of the many other challenges that come with their diagnoses.

Simply put, if money is put into the system to benefit a patient, it should. As healthcare leaders in Oregon, we urge you to join the Chronic Disease Coalition in supporting this bipartisan legislation. This is an important step that will certainly lead to better patient outcomes across the state.

Sincerely,

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