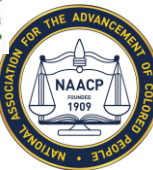
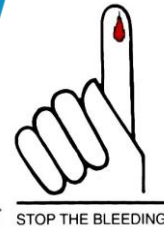
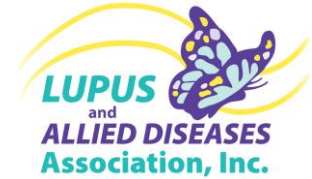
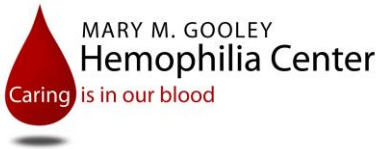


Help Keep Medication Affordable!
WE SUPPORT and URGE PASSAGE OF S.6303/A.8246



Mended Hearts™



June 15, 2020

New York State Assembly
Albany NY 12248

Re: Help Keep Medication Affordable by passing S6303/A8246

Dear Assembly Member:

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, including the insured, still face hardship when faced with prescription drug costs. **Copay accumulator programs make it even more challenging for patients to afford their medication.**

As we are all aware, New Yorkers and others throughout the world are experiencing hardship in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Chronically ill patients face the additional challenge of being able to afford and access their medication and care. According to a recent national survey of cancer patients and caregivers from the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, 87% of respondents said the pandemic had affected their cancer care in some manner, up from 51% in an April survey. In addition, 46% percent said the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted their financial situation and ability to pay for care in some way.

Copay coupons and copay cards can provide some financial relief to patients. These programs are typically offered by manufacturers to patients to help offset the cost sharing associated with high cost drugs, and help patients meet their maximum out of pocket limit. Copay assistance programs can give patients access to a lifesaving medication they may otherwise not be able to afford.

Copay accumulators are a relatively new insurance benefit design being adopted by some insurance plans. **Copay accumulator programs 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 requirement.

We strongly urge your support and sponsorship of S6303 and A8246 to stop this unfair practice and to help families afford the medication they need. The need for this legislation has only been exacerbated during the crisis we are facing today, when many New York families face financial uncertainty. We urge the Senate and Assembly to pass this legislation and to put patients first by requiring insurance companies to count all dollars towards a patient's deductible during the next remote session. For more information or questions, please contact Julie Hart, Senior Director, Government Relations, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network at 518.505.7833 or julie.hart@cancer.org.

Sincerely,

Aimed Alliance
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance For Patient Access
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Liver Foundation
American Urological Association
Arthritis Foundation
Arthur Ashe Institute For Urban Health
Cancer Support Community
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York
Coalition for Hemophilia B
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO)
Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern NY
Hemophilia Association of New York
Hemophilia Federation of America
Lupus and Allied Diseases, 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 Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Infusion Center Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Psoriasis Foundation
New York Blood Center

New York City Hemophilia Chapter
New York Oncology Hematology
New York State Academy of Family Physicians
NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, Chapters 1, 2 & 3
New York State Association for Rural Health
NYS Bleeding Disorders Coalition
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
New York State Rheumatology Society
New York State Urological Society
Northeast Kidney Foundation
Patients Rising
Rheumatology Nurses Society
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patients Network
Sobre a Vivir – A Will To Live
Susan G. Komen
Western New York Blood Care