



November 30, 2020

Anderson House Office Building
 124 North Capitol Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Iden and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

For individuals living with rare and chronic conditions, like hemophilia, cancer, and rheumatoid arthritis, the high cost of treatment has a direct impact on patient access. Many patients and their families rely on co-pay assistance programs from manufacturers and nonprofit organizations to afford the medications they need to manage their conditions. A legislative study from Massachusetts released in July 2020 showed that drug coupons provide financial relief and likely improve adherence, leading to better clinical outcomes.¹

¹ Health Policy Commission, *Prescription Drug Coupon Study: Report to the Massachusetts Legislature*, July 2020, 22.

Unfortunately, insurers continue to introduce new programs called *accumulator adjuster programs* that bar manufacturer assistance from counting towards patients' out-of-pocket costs and impede their access to lifesaving and life-enhancing medication.

The 24 undersigned organizations, who together represent hundreds of thousands of Michiganders with chronic diseases, would like to express our support of HB 5944 and appreciation to Representative Ben Frederick for recognizing the need for reform.

HB 5944 ensures that all copay assistance counts—by requiring that all payments made by or on behalf of the insured go toward a patient's deductible and out-of-pocket costs.

The undersigned patient and provider organizations are still concerned that HB 5944 is tie-barred to the health care reform package and respectfully support an amendment that removes the tie-bar.

We understand that health care reform is complex and we greatly appreciate the time and effort the Committee has dedicated to improving health care for all Michiganders, but patients can't wait. We ask you to put patients first and pass copay accumulator reform so patients can afford their medications, stay adherent to their treatments, and reduce the need for expensive hospitalization.

Sincerely,

Allergy and Asthma Network
Alliance for Patient Access
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Kidney Fund
The Arc Michigan
Arthritis Foundation
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Gaucher Community Alliance
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan
HIV/HEP Institute
Little Hercules Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology
Michigan State Medical Society
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Diseases
National Psoriasis Foundation
New Day Foundation
Spondylitis Association of America