



September 23, 2020

Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Statement regarding HB 5944 – Ensuring All Copays Count

Dear Chairman Vaupel and Members of the Health Policy Committee:

The 18 undersigned organizations, who together represent hundreds of thousands of Michiganders with chronic diseases, are writing to thank Representative Frederick for being a patient access leader, by introducing legislation that will ensure all copays count, HB 5944.

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.

HB 5944 ensures all copay assistance counts – by requiring that all payments made by or on behalf of the insured go towards 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. We understand health care reform is complex and we greatly appreciate the work the Committee is doing to improve health care for all Michiganders. We respectfully support an amendment that removes the tie-bar, so that patients can afford their medications, stay adherent to their treatments, and reduce the need for expensive hospitalization. **Please Put Patients First.**

Sincerely,

The ARC Michigan
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Diabetes Association
Arthritis Foundation
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
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
Spondylitis Association of America