



March 27, 2024

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Chair  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Bonnie Cullison  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Vice Chair  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB 595 – Copay Accumulator Reform

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk & Vice Chair Cullison,

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition, I am writing in support of SB 595. This legislation is critical to ensuring that patients – including those with movement disorders – can utilize copay coupons to afford the medications they need while being protected against surprise out-of-pocket costs.

The [Movement Disorders Policy Coalition](#) (MDPC) serves as a platform from which stakeholders, including health care providers and patients, can provide input on policy decisions impacting patient-centered care for those living with movement disorders. As a coalition of stakeholder groups across the movement disorders space, MDPC advocates at the federal, state, and health plan levels for key health reforms that increase access to personalized care for patients with movement disorders including Parkinson’s disease, essential tremor, tardive dyskinesia, Tourette Syndrome, dystonia, ataxia and Huntington’s disease.

For patients in commercial health plans, copay coupons can be vital in affording their medications. These copay coupons provide payment toward the prescription cost-sharing requirements patients manage, allowing patients to access their medications and contribute toward their annual deductible, or out-of-pocket cost limit. However, a now common insurance practice called “copay accumulator programs” limits copay coupons’ benefit for patients. Insurance companies will still accept the coupon payment, but the copay accumulator program disallows copay coupon payments from contributing to a patient’s annual deductible, which can lead to surprise out-of-pocket costs.

The increased cost to movement disorder and other patients as a result of copay accumulator programs can be detrimental to the health and well-being of patients. These surprise out-of-pocket costs can force patients to ration or discontinue their medications and treatments, leading to new or worsening symptoms, new side effects, or increased physician visits. In addition to being dangerous, this places an undue burden on patients who are already managing complex movement disorders.

SB 595 will protect affordability and accessibility by ensuring that all payments made on behalf of an insurance plan member, including those payments made using a copay coupon, are counted toward that patient’s out-of-pocket maximum. Most notably, this protects patients, including those with movement disorders, by ensuring access to the medication they need – without fear of surprise out-of-pocket costs.

*Movement Disorders  
Policy Coalition  
2020 K Street NW, Suite 505  
Washington, DC 20006*

On behalf of the Movement Disorders Policy Coalition and our membership, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If we can provide further details or answer any questions, please reach out to Josie Cooper at [jcooper@allianceforpatientaccess.org](mailto:jcooper@allianceforpatientaccess.org).

Sincerely,



Josie Cooper  
Executive Director  
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition

**Co-Signing Organizations:**

Alliance for Patient Access  
Caregiver Action Network  
Clinical Neurological Society of America  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
HD Reach  
Huntington's Disease Society of America  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia  
Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance  
Parkinson's Foundation  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

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