



February 4, 2021

Senate Commerce and Energy Committee
500 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Senate Bill 154

Dear Chair Crabtree, Vice-Chair Schoenbeck and Committee Members,

Many patients across South Dakota have relied on third-party cost-sharing assistance, including copay coupons from manufacturers, to help better afford their prescription medications. These third-party cost-sharing assistance programs provide relief from high cost sharing and make it easier for patients to get their prescription medications. Historically health insurance plans have counted these coupons toward a patient’s deductible and out-of-pocket limits. However, that is beginning to change.

Health insurers and pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) are adopting accumulator adjustment programs that block manufacturer coupons from counting towards deductibles and out-of-pocket limits. Disallowing coupons from counting toward a patient’s deductible and out-of-pocket limit leads to the patient potentially paying thousands more at the pharmacy than they should be.

The patients who rely on this assistance to afford their medications often are unaware that health insurers and PBMs are no longer counting coupons toward their out-of-pocket limits.

There is a patient-centered solution to all of this found in Senate Bill 154: make cost-sharing programs and coupons count.

Patients deserve to be protected and to have their cost-sharing assistance, including copay coupons, count toward their deductibles and out-of-pocket limits. Five states have already enacted such protections. South Dakota should enact the patient protections outlined in Senate Bill 154 and we respectfully ask that you pass this bill.

Sincerely,

- South Dakota State Medical Association
- Aimed Alliance
- Alliance for Patient Access
- American Association of Clinical Urologists
- American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Kidney Fund
- Arthritis Foundation
- Chronic Care Policy Alliance
- Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
- Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc. (CFRI)
- Global Healthy Living Foundation
- Health Connect of South Dakota
- Hemophilia Federation of America
- HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
- Infusion Access Foundation (IAF)
- International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)
- Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
- Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
- NAMI South Dakota
- National Eczema Association
- National Infusion Center Association (NICA)
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Pulmonary Hypertension Association
- South Dakota Biotech Association
- South Dakota Parent Connection