



DATE: April 10, 2024

To: Rep. Joseph Solomon Jr, Chair of the House Corporations Committee,

RE: Support for H8041 - To Restrict the Use of Copay Accumulator Adjustment Programs in Rhode Island

As a patient organization for those living with Spondyloarthritis our vision is a world free from the pain and disability of ankylosing spondylitis and related diseases. We know that the delay and discontinuation of an effective treatment program for ankylosing spondylitis can lead to permanent and irreparable damage/disfigurement of the spine, hips, eyes, and other areas.

Many Rhode Island patients, particularly those living with chronic and rare conditions, rely on consistent treatments and medications to manage their symptoms, stay healthy, and live fulfilling lives. However, health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers are increasingly implementing harmful policies called copay accumulator adjustment programs, which block any financial copay assistance from counting toward a patient's annual deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

Copay Accumulator Adjustment Policies put patients and their families in an impossible situation having to choose between their health and other financial obligations.

In Rhode Island, 1 in 2 private insurance plans include copay accumulator adjustment policies. These policies are often implemented without a patient's knowledge or full understanding of how the program works and affects their out-of-pocket costs.

H8041 will provide oversight of entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services to restrict the use of copay accumulator adjustment policies in Rhode Island.

For these reasons, and on behalf of the patients and providers we represent, the Spondylitis Association of America strongly supports H8041.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Rhode Island communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassie Shafer".

Cassie Shafer
CEO
Spondylitis Association of America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Howard".

Richard Howard
Chief Mission Delivery Officer
Spondylitis Association of America