



February 21, 2024

The Honorable Rhonda Fields, Chair
The Honorable Joann Ginal, Vice-Chair
Colorado State Senate Health & Human Services Committee
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chair Fields, Vice-Chair Ginal, and Members of the Committee,

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Colorado Senate Bill 24-077 related to prescription drug copayment assistance programs. ACS CAN advocates for evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. As the American Cancer Society's nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, ACS CAN is making cancer a top priority for public officials and candidates at the federal, state, and local levels.

Many individuals with cancer have difficulty affording the cost of their prescription drugs. This is especially true for newer drugs – including many cancer drugs – that do not yet have a generic equivalent. To help temper high prescription costs, many individuals living with cancer receive copay assistance offered through manufacturer programs and charitable patient assistance programs. A patient assistance program's financial support can give patients access to a life-saving drug that they otherwise could not afford. And many of the programs exist for drugs without generic alternatives.

We are concerned with Senate Bill 24-077 section 10-16-122.8(2)(a) which requires copay assistance from a manufacturer to last through the entirety of the plan year or the calendar year as long as the person is enrolled in the health plan. We note that some prescription drug assistance programs are small and only have a certain amount of money yet are still beneficial to the patient population they serve. We are concerned that if this policy were implemented it would have the effect of closing some assistance programs which would be harmful.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation and for your continued support of individuals with cancer across Colorado. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 303.748.7357 or rj.ours@cancer.org

Sincerely,

R.J. Ours
Colorado Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



COLORADO
PHARMACISTS
SOCIETY

Colorado Pharmacists Society

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Colorado Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Colorado State Capitol
Denver, CO

Dear Madam Chair Fields and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

The Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS) is the only non-profit professional association representing pharmacists, technicians and licensed interns in the state of Colorado. Our mission is to promote, develop, and advance the profession of pharmacy to optimize patient care and public health.

Our members are on the frontlines of patient care every day, in health system and community settings. We see our patients' struggles to afford their medications and support all efforts to optimize access to life-supporting and lifesaving medications.

In spirit of this mission, we are writing today to support SB24-077 with the pending amendments offered to your Committee by the bill sponsor. We specifically wish to support patients' ability to get their medications in a sustainable manner, and we support transparency of medication costs and programs across the spectrum of healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration,

Emily Zadvorny, PharmD, BCPS

Executive Director, Colorado Pharmacists Society

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