

Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

November 30th, 2022

The Honorable Steve Huffman, MD
Chairman, Health Committee
Ohio Senate
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 135, sponsored by State Representatives West and Manchester.

This legislation would prohibit health plans from implementing copay adjuster programs that are harmful to patients in need of expensive prescription drugs. Our members believe that this legislation will provide much needed relief to families who rely on copay assistance programs to help cover the cost of prescription drugs for their children.

Many children with chronic or serious medical conditions require prescription drugs as part of their daily lives. Given that many of these drugs can be expensive, some patients qualify for copay assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical companies or charities. These programs have a significant and positive impact on the families who receive them.

HB 135 would ensure that any copay assistance used would count towards a patient's deductible. This is critical for parents of medically fragile children who often struggle to afford prescriptions, medical bills, and other essentials of daily living.

It is my hope that the committee will favorably report HB 135 in the near future. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervey Arnold".

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Chapter

94-A Northwoods Blvd, Columbus, OH 43235 • Phone: (614)846-6258 • Fax: (614)846-4025 • chapter@ohioaap.org • www.ohioaap.org

President

Christopher Peltier, MD, FAAP
Email: chris.peltier@cchmc.org

President-Elect

Kelsey Logan, MD, MPH, FAAP, FACP
Email: kelsey.logan@cchmc.org

Chief Executive Officer

Melissa Wervey Arnold
Email: marnold@ohioaap.org

Immediate Past President

Jill Fitch, MD, FAAP
Email: jill.fitch@nationwidechildrens.org