



Memorandum in Support of LD 1783
3307 Northland Dr, Ste 160
Austin, TX 78731

January 10, 2022

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the infusion providers we represent in your state, thank you for your service and commitment to the people of Maine, particularly during these challenging times. As a nonprofit trade association that provides a national voice for non-hospital, community-based infusion providers; we ask you to please support LD 1783.

When dealing with complex diseases, conventional drugs are not always effective, therefore biological products are sometimes the only hope for patients suffering from autoimmune or other chronic illnesses. Naturally, these drugs can be extremely expensive. Copay assistance, also known as copay coupons or manufacturer assistance, allows patients to afford these life-saving medications by contributing to their out-of-pocket costs. Copay accumulator programs that prevent copay assistance from counting towards a patient's cost share responsibility are not only reckless, but also place a greater burden on provider offices by adding to their administrative duties (sourcing additional financial resources/financing), requiring them to identify a more affordable treatment plan alternative, and respond to the inevitable disease flare or progression associated with stopping treatment.

As I'm sure you know, many provider offices are struggling to keep their doors open during the current pandemic. If patients are unable to afford their provider-administered treatments due to this harmful insurance practice, we can expect more Maine infusion providers to struggle as well. Additionally, the infusion offices we represent provide a more cost-effective alternative to hospitals, which are currently dealing with overcapacity from COVID-19. Preventing patients from affording their provider-administered medications at this time is harmful for patients, provider offices, and hospitals.

The passage of LD 1783 would allow Maine patients to remain on their life-saving medications by ensuring that all payments made by or for a patient count. On behalf of the providers we serve, tending to patients battling chronic conditions for the rest of their lives, we sincerely request your support for LD 1783, which would protect Maine patients' access to care and this extremely important non-hospital care setting.

NICA hopes that the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee will support LD 1783 to reform the insurance practice of implementing copay accumulator policies to support Maine providers and their patients. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kindyl Boyer".

Kindyl Boyer
Director of Advocacy, National Infusion Center Association (NICA)



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