

# Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-336

AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN HEALTH CARRIERS AND PHARMACY  
BENEFITS MANAGERS FROM EMPLOYING COPAY ACCUMULATOR

**Title:** PROGRAMS.

**Vote Date:** 3/10/2020

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/5/2020

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Sen. Saud Anwar, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

Rep. Jillian Gilchrest, 18<sup>th</sup> Dist

Sen. Martin M. Looney 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill was made to help people alleviate out of pocket costs with high deductible health plans. This will assist in copayments and will be of particular benefit to those who have chronic medical conditions.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Ted Doolittle, Office of the Healthcare Advocate** comments that insurance companies have a valid concern when it comes to co-payment assistance programs but also acknowledges the burden placed on the person being covered by the insurance. They also state that if this bill is passed it will result in increased premiums.

**Representative Jillian Gilchrest, 18<sup>th</sup> District** supports the bill as they have residents who have chronic conditions who pay huge out of pocket costs for their medications. They also propose that the bill be precise in that both name brand and generics are covered by co-pay assistance and be applied to the deductible.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Lesley Bennett, Stamford, CT** supports this bill as it would help cut high out of pocket costs for life saving medications and care for diseases such as hemophilia.

**Patricia Carroll, Meriden, CT, RN** supports the bill as she has primary immune deficiency and has to pay large out of pocket expenses for treatment and care. She believes this bill will help cut those expenses and safeguard assistance programs for people with similar conditions.

**Mental Health Connecticut** urges support of the bill because according to them co-payment assistance programs are vital to those with high deductible insurance plans, especially if they have chronic conditions.

**Michael Finley, Epilepsy Foundation** supports the bill as it will help people maintain access to their medications who have the chronic conditions such as epilepsy that were having difficulty paying under the current system.

**American Cancer Society Action Network** urges support of the bill as it would help people who are taking maintenance medications such as hormone therapy and some drugs that treat blood cancers.

**Connecticut Hemophilia Association** urges passage of the bill as it would ensure that all payments are applied toward the patient's deductible.

**The American Association of Clinical Urologists** supports the bill as co-pay assistance programs would help the patients afford expensive breakthrough therapies that they would not otherwise have been able to.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**The Connecticut Association of Health Plans** opposes the bill as insurance carriers do not count coupons or other third-party payments towards deductibles. They argue that this would result in higher insurance prices if passed.

**Reported by: Lawrence Sanchez**

**Date: 03/31/2020**