FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fifty Patient and Provider Advocacy Groups Urge House Leadership to Support Bipartisan Legislation to Delay CMS Policy, Protect Patients from Rising Out-of-Pocket Costs Through COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond

All Copays Count Coalition Calls on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to Support Bill to Delay 2021 Notice of Benefit Payment Parameters Provision, Count Copay Assistance Towards Patient Out-of-Pocket Costs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 12, 2020) – The All Copays Count Coalition (ACCC), a group of patient and provider nonprofit advocacy organizations representing millions of patients nationwide, has delivered a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) urging them to support the Preserving Patient Savings on Drug Costs Act (H.R. 7647).

“We write to you in support of H.R. 7647, the Preserving Patient Savings on Drug Costs Act, which is bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives Donald McEachin and Rodney Davis,” wrote the ACCC. “The Coalition urges you to include this legislation in the next package of COVID-19 response legislation to help patients with chronic illness afford the necessary prescription medication during this time of economic crisis.”

H.R. 7647 is a bipartisan bill before the U.S. House of Representatives that would temporarily delay implementation of the “copay accumulator adjustment program” provision of the Department of Health and Human Services’ 2021 Notice of Benefit Payment Parameter (NBPP). A “copay accumulator adjustment program” is a policy adopted by health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) that prevents copay assistance from manufacturers from being applied toward a patient’s annual deductible or out-of-pocket cost limit.

A provision in the 2021 NBPP allows health insurers and PBMs to adopt “copay accumulator adjustment programs,” giving insurers and PBMs complete discretion on whether or not they will count manufacturer copay assistance towards a beneficiary’s annual cost sharing, regardless of generic availability. Despite our urging to reconsider their position prior to finalizing the rule (and despite taking the opposite stance in the 2020 NBPP), HHS proceeded as planned, failing to protect patients amidst a global pandemic. ACCC now turns to Congress to act on the bipartisan goal of making prescription drugs more affordable for everyone. Passing this legislation will provide patients with the much-needed
assurance that they will be able to afford their prescription drugs during this time of great uncertainty, with no impact on the federal budget.”

Taking this step would help patients afford their medication during this precarious time when so many patients with chronic conditions are struggling to make ends meet. H.R. 7647 presents a solution that will have a direct and positive impact on patients’ ability to afford their prescriptions.

Fifty nationally recognized nonprofit patient and provider organizations signed the letter, including the Arthritis Foundation, American Kidney Fund, Cancer Support Community, National Hemophilia Foundation, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and the AIDS Institute, which together make up the ACCC Steering Committee.

You can read the letter from the ACCC in full here.

About the All Copays Count Coalition (ACCC)

The All Copays Count Coalition (ACCC) is a diverse representation of patient and provider groups united to serve the interests of beneficiaries with chronic and serious health conditions that rely on copay assistance to make medically necessary drug treatments affordable.