



April 25, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy,

Thank you for your leadership on crafting a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) reform package that will address rising costs in commercial health plans. We write on behalf of the Safe Step Act Ad Hoc Coalition and the All Copays Count Coalition to urge you to include HR 2630/S 652, the Safe Step Act, and HR 830, the HELP Copays Act in the package to provide much needed relief where consumers will feel it most.

Together, the [Safe Step Act Ad Hoc](#) and [All Copays Count](#) coalitions are made up of over 200 patient and provider organizations seeking to improve access and affordability for medically necessary treatments. Many of our member organizations represent and care for populations that rely on prescription drugs to keep disease at bay, enabling our communities to support their families and lead productive lives.

The Safe Step Act and HELP Copays Act are patient centered reforms that address the most common and devastating barriers to treatment adherence that we hear about from our constituents. These bills have been vetted at the state level, and they enjoy broad, bipartisan support in Congress.

- **HR 2630/S 652, the Safe Step Act** would ensure that employer health plans offer a medically reasonable and expedient step therapy exceptions process. Without reform, step therapy-related delays in care lead to severe or even irreversible health outcomes.
- **HR 830, the HELP Copays Act** would ensure that copay assistance is counted towards a patient's deductible and out of pocket maximum. Without reform, patients struggle to afford their treatment and frequently take less than prescribed or go without.

Any PBM reform must include the Safe Step Act and the HELP Copays Act to truly benefit consumers. We appreciate the Committee's intent to improve the prescription drug market and urge you to include these patient centered reforms. To discuss further or for additional information, please contact Sarah Buchanan with the National Psoriasis Foundation at sbuchanan@psoriasis.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Safe Step Act Ad Hoc Coalition
Steering Committee Members**

Arthritis Foundation
American Gastroenterological Association
Association for Clinical Oncology
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Digestive Disease National Coalition
National Eczema Association
National Psoriasis Foundation

**All Copays Count Coalition
Steering Committee Members**

Arthritis Foundation
Cancer Support Community
Immune Deficiency Foundation
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
The AIDS Institute