



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF UTAH LEGISLATION TO REFORM COPAY ACCUMULATOR PROGRAMS

Aimed Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit health policy organization that seeks to protect and enhance the rights of health care consumers and providers. We support efforts to introduce and pass legislation in Utah that would limit insurers' and pharmacy benefit managers' use of copay accumulator programs.

Traditionally, when patients have been unable to afford their prescription medications, they have been able to receive copay assistance from manufacturers and third parties to help offset the cost of their medications. The value of this assistance has traditionally counted toward the individual's deductible and annual out-of-pocket limit. However, health plans are increasingly implementing copay accumulator programs, which are health insurance policies that allow the plan to accept the third-party assistance for the cost of the prescription but exclude this assistance from counting towards the individual's deductible and annual out-of-pocket maximum. These programs can result in a lack of medication adherence as patients may be forced to switch or stop their medications once their financial assistance has been exhausted and their copay is once again unaffordable.

A 2021 survey found that one-half of Utah health plans are currently using copay accumulator programs.¹ The use of these program is especially impactful during the COVID-19 pandemic, when people are still recovering from the heightened unemployment rates and may already be experience difficulties paying their bills. In Utah, specifically, as of August 2021, there are over 40,000 people currently unemployed that could be harmed by these policies.² Moreover, even if experiencing unemployment, a separate 2021 survey found that sixty percent of patients with chronic diseases reported they would have difficulty affording their medications without copay assistance.³

The Utah state legislature can take action to adopt a copay accumulator law that would require health plans to count third-party assistance towards the individual's annual out-of-pocket maximum. Twelve states have already taken steps to protect consumers by passing legislation that limits copay accumulator programs. Utah can be next.

Aimed Alliance supports the work of the Utah All Copays Count Coalition and encourages the Utah state legislature to take immediate action to address these policies and protect consumers.

¹ Double-Dipping Insurance Companies Profit at Patients' Expense (March 2021), [2021 TAI Double-Dipping Final-031621.pdf \(aidsinstitute.net\)](#).

² Utah's Employment Summary: Aug. 2021, <https://jobs.utah.gov/blog/post/2021/09/17/utah-s-employment-summary-aug-2021#:~:text=Utah's%20current%20employment%20level%20stands,rate%20is%20unchanged%20at%202.6%25>.

³ Katie Adams, *60% of patients say they couldn't afford their meds without copay assistance* (May 20, 2021), <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/pharmacy/60-of-patients-say-they-couldn-t-afford-their-meds-without-copay-assistance.html>.