



February 1, 2022

The Honorable Curt Bramble, Chair  
Senate Business and Labor Committee  
350 North State St, Senate Suite 220  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Dear Chair Bramble and Members of the Senate Business and Labor Committee,

The Society of Utah Medical Oncologists (SUMO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to support **Senate Bill 139: Prescription Cost Amendments**, which would prohibit health carriers in the state from utilizing co-pay accumulator programs within their plans.

SUMO is a professional organization whose mission is to facilitate improvements for Utah physician specialties in both hematology and oncology. SUMO members are a community of hematologists, oncologists, and other physicians who specialize in cancer care. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

SUMO and ASCO are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving quality of cancer care; however, it is critical that such policies be developed and implemented in a way that does not undermine patient access. Copay accumulator programs target specialty drugs for which manufacturers often provide copay assistance. With a co-pay accumulator program in place, a manufacturer's assistance no longer applies toward a patient's co-pay or out-of-pocket maximum. This policy means patients will experience increased out of pocket costs and take longer to reach required deductibles. By prohibiting these funds from counting toward patient premiums and deductibles, co-pay accumulators negate the intended benefit of patient assistance programs and remove a safety net for patients who need expensive specialty medications but cannot afford them.

Copay accumulator programs lack transparency and are often implemented without a patient's knowledge or full understanding of their new "benefit." Far from being beneficial, copay accumulator programs increase financial burden for patients, many of whom are facing life-threatening illness. The impact is especially hard on low-income populations. Increasing patient cost can contribute to medical bankruptcy and cause patients to discontinue care, seek non-medical alternatives—or forego treatment altogether. The result is poorer health outcomes and greater cost to the system.

SUMO and ASCO are encouraged by the steps that SB 139 takes toward eliminating co-pay accumulator programs in Utah and we strongly urge the Senate Business and Labor Committee to pass the measure. For a more detailed understanding of our policy recommendations on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Policy Brief on Co-Pay Accumulators](#) by our affiliate, the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

We welcome the opportunity to be a resource for you. Please contact Aaron Segel at ASCO [aaron.segel@asco.org](mailto:aaron.segel@asco.org) or Robbi Cook, the Executive Director of SUMO, at [rcook@nextwavegroup.net](mailto:rcook@nextwavegroup.net) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Xylina Gregg, MD  
President  
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists



Howard A. Burris III, MD, FACP, FASCO  
Chair of the Board  
Association for Clinical Oncology