February [XX], 2022

Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Health

Wisconsin State Capitol

2 East Main Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

**RE: Support Assembly Bill 184 to Protect Copay Assistance for Patients**

Dear Chairman Sanfelippo and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today to thank the Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Health for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 184 which would ensure that the value of copay assistance counts for patients across Wisconsin. I fully support this bill and urge the Committee to take action to advance AB 184 to lower out-of-pocket costs for patients in Wisconsin and help them access their prescription medications.

[OPTIONAL: Insert 1-2 sentences describing why you personally support Assembly Bill 184.]

Patients rely on copay assistance to access their medications and manage their health, especially where no generic alternatives exist for their condition. But nothing stops insurance plans in Wisconsin from implementing “copay accumulator” programs that don’t count the value of copay assistance towards patients’ annual deductible or out-of-pocket cost responsibilities. These policies allow Wisconsin health plans to increase their profits by requiring patients to pay the same amount *twice* to get closer to their annual out-of-pocket limit. When patients cannot afford their medications, they often skip doses or abandon treatment entirely, worsening individual health outcomes and increasing overall health care system costs.

To date, 12 states and Puerto Rico have already taken legislative action to ensure health plans count the value of copay assistance toward patient out-of-pocket costs. Wisconsin should be next.

Consistent and affordable access to prescription medications has become even more critical for vulnerable patients who are experiencing the health and economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I strongly urge the Assembly Committee on Health to support this bill and stand with patients in helping those with chronic and complex conditions access the treatments they need to live a healthy and productive life.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to Wisconsin communities.

Sincerely,

[NAME]