

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Assemblymember Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA

RE: Senate Bill 568 (Pan) – Support

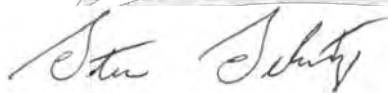
Dear Chair Wood,

The Arthritis Foundation urges your support for Senate Bill 568. This bill would prohibit a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy from imposing a deductible requirement for a covered prescription drug or certain equipment and supplies used to treat a chronic disease. In addition, the bill would limit the amount paid for the benefit by a patient to no more than the amount of copayment or coinsurance specified in the applicable summary of benefits and coverage. This bill would prohibit a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy that meets the definition of a “high deductible health plan” from imposing a deductible requirement with respect to any covered benefit for preventive care.

High cost-sharing is a barrier to medication access for people with chronic, disabling, and life-threatening conditions. Cost-sharing for prescription medications should not be so burdensome that it restricts or interferes with access to necessary medications, which can lead to negative health outcomes and additional costs to the health care system. Barriers to treatment cost the health care system more money in the long run as disease progression leads to increased hospitalizations and associated costs as well as other health care services. This creates a ripple effect on productivity, employee absenteeism, caregiver costs, and other indirect cost impacts to the patient, health care system, and overall economic costs.

On behalf of the more than 5.7 million people living in California with doctor-diagnosed arthritis, the Arthritis Foundation strongly urges your support of SB 568.

Sincerely,



Steven Schultz
Director, State Legislative Affairs
Arthritis Foundation
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