



## WRITING YOUR LEGISLATOR

A letter to your elected representative is a powerful tool. It helps policymakers understand the human impact of the laws they create.

A good letter tells a story of how a particular piece of legislation affects you. It includes personal anecdotes as well as facts about the law. It shows that you understand the issue, and want, in turn, to make your lawmaker understand how deeply this would affect you.

### WHEN WRITING A LETTER, A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Be clear and concise. Try to keep the letter to one page.
- Use personal information (your bleeding disorder, your medical costs, etc.)
- Include your address so the office can confirm you are a constituent.
  - Some offices will only “count” and/or respond to letters from constituents.
- Include photos.
- Convey urgency.

### TEMPLATE LETTER

**RE:** Making All Copays Count in California

Dear **(Assemblymember/Senator) (Last name):**

My name is **(your first and last name)** and I am a**(n) (Hemophilia Treatment Center patient / family member / service provider / advocate / community member)** who resides in your district. I am writing to express my concern about the negative impact that copay accumulator policies are having on patients. As you may be aware, these policies are being implemented by insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) as a cost-saving measure but have serious implications for patients living with complex or chronic medical conditions.

Patients with bleeding disorders, such as hemophilia or von Willebrand disease, often require expensive clotting factor therapies to manage their condition. These therapies can cost thousands of dollars per dose, and patients rely heavily on financial assistance programs to cover the cost of these treatments. However, copay accumulators effectively eliminate this financial assistance, leaving patients with much higher out-of-pocket costs than previously.

Patients may be forced to forego or ration their treatments, which can lead to serious health consequences, including increased risk of bleeding, joint damage, and disability.



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*(Include a personal story. Tell your representative why the issue of preserving access to treatment and medications is important to you and how it affects you, your family member, and your community.)*

California has the opportunity to join 16 other states in protecting patients from these harmful practices by passing Assembly Bill 874 by Assemblymember Akilah Weber, M.D. This bill will ensure the value of copay assistance counts toward a patient's deductible. It is important that patients have access to the treatments they need to manage their condition, without facing undue financial hardship.

By banning these harmful policies, lawmakers can protect the health and financial stability of the 394,000 bleeding disorder patients living in California.

We hope you will support AB 874 that will put patients first.

Sincerely,

**Your Name**

**Street Address**

**City, State, Zip Code**

