



## 2024 ADVOCACY ISSUES TALKING POINTS

### ISSUE #1: PROTECTING COPAY ASSISTANCE (AB 2180)

- Assemblymember Akilah Weber, MD, is a vocal advocate for patients who are impacted by copay accumulators. She championed our measure last year and this year she introduced **AB 2180**, which will require health plans to count the value of copay assistance toward a chronic or terminally ill patient's deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.
- Copay assistance is provided by drug manufacturers, charitable foundations and other third parties to help patients pay for their prescriptions, enabling them to afford medications that they otherwise wouldn't have access to.
- Copay accumulators are policies through which health plans and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) prevent copay assistance given to patients from counting towards their deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.
- Many bleeding disorder patients rely on copay assistance to afford their medication but may find that their costs are suddenly much higher than expected, leaving them unable to afford their treatment.
- Copay accumulators have a negative impact on patient adherence and health outcomes, leading them to skipping or rationing their medication.

### ISSUE #2: MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS FOR MEDI-CAL, THE CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS), AND GENETICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS PROGRAM (GHPP)

- These programs provide healthcare coverage to people with hemophilia and other rare bleeding disorders in California. This coverage includes blood factor replacement medication, ancillary medical supplies, physical therapy, and medical procedures.