

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Donene Feist, I am the Director for Family Voices of North Dakota. I am writing today to urge you to support HB 1413, to ban the use of Accumulator Adjustment Programs (AAPs).

Family Voices of North Dakota is statewide family to family health information and education center who serves families of children with special health care needs in ND. Each state in the country and our territories has one family organization that has been designated as a family to family health information and education center by HRSA federally. We are that entity for ND.

According to the 2020-2021 National Survey of Children's Health, there is approximately 34,412 children and youth who have a special health care need in North Dakota. FVND follows the Maternal and Child Health definition of children with special health care needs, which is those children and youth who have a chronic condition of at least one year, a physical disability or mental health/behavior health diagnosis.

Additionally, there are many children and youth who may have a physical disability and a chronic health illness but also may have a co-occurring mental health diagnosis. Because of many families have a co-occurring condition, it often leaves families having to understand and navigate many systems and complicated silos.

National Outcome Measure 17.1: Percent of children, ages 0 through 17, with special health care needs (CSHCN) 

	Children with special health care needs (CSHCN)	Children without special health care needs (Non-CSHCN)	Total %
%	19.4	80.6	100.0
C.I.	16.9 - 22.1	77.9 - 83.1	
Sample Count	334	1,240	
Pop. Est.	34,412	143,176	

C.I. = 95% Confidence Interval.

Percentages and population estimates (Pop.Est.) are weighted to represent child population in US.

Unbeknownst to many North Dakota patients including the families we serve, many insurance companies have begun using AAPs to prevent third-party co-pay assistance from counting toward their out-of-pocket spending requirements. For North Dakotans living on tight budgets finding out their prescriptions are more

expensive because their third-party assistance or coupons no longer count toward that cost can be a big shock. A shock that could keep some patients from properly filling and adhering to their prescribed medicines.

By supporting HB 1413 you will ensure that North Dakota patients are better able to afford their medicines by preventing insurance companies from using Accumulator Adjustment Programs.

We thank you for your consideration.

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