

January 24, 2023

Chairman Louser and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee -

My name is Dylan Wheeler, Head of Government Affairs for Sanford Health Plan, respectfully submitting remarks in **opposition** to HB1413. We generally support initiatives that would increase access to affordable medications for our patients and members. However, HB1413, as written, does not address the root cause of access to medications - the rising price of prescription drugs. Rather, it would likely shift rising prescription drug costs onto health plans, members, and patients.

HB1413 would require health plans to apply payments made on behalf of an enrollee to that enrollee's out of pocket accumulators or cost-sharing. For example, if a member received a drug discount coupon issued by a manufacturer to help pay for the medication at the counter. The amount paid by the member, plus the couponed amount, would be required to be applied to a member's out of pocket accumulators under the benefit plan. Having a drug manufacturer issue a coupon on its own medications that help afford the medication, itself is an underlying issue that warrants additional discussion. This practice incentivizes increased drug prices and increased utilization, which ultimately may be passed onto health plans and members in the form of increased premium.

I appreciate the time and diligence of the committee and please don't hesitate to contact me should there be any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dylan Wheeler, JD, MPA
Head of Government Affairs
Sanford Health Plan