

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Senator Richard Pan
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA

RE: Senate Bill 568 – Support

Dear Chair Richard Pan,

The Arthritis Foundation thanks you for authoring Senate Bill 568 and we urge the members of the Senate Committee on Health to support this important bill. This bill would prohibit a health care service plan contract or health insurance policy from imposing a deductible requirement for a covered prescription drug and certain equipment and supplies and 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
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CC: Members, Senate Committee on Health