

House Bill 875 - Patient Access to Specialty Tier Drugs Act

- We ask for your support as our state representatives to protect Georgians who need medication to stay healthy and whose medication has been or will be moved from the traditional three-tiered formulary onto a specialty tier.
- On behalf of thousands of insured Georgians facing chronic or life-threatening conditions that require prescription treatment, we ask you to support House Bill 875 which limits rising out-of-pocket costs for vital medications.
- Health insurers are increasingly driving up patient out-of-pocket costs by charging coinsurance - or a percentage of the total cost of a medication - rather than a fixed copay. These so-called "specialty tier" price structures can mean hundreds or even thousands of dollars per month in additional out-of-pocket costs for even a single medication, putting treatments out of reach for many Georgia families.
- We need legislation that limits these rising out-of-pocket costs by ensuring that the copayment or coinsurance for "specialty tier" medications does not exceed \$200 per month for a 30-day supply.
- No Georgian should have to choose between paying for their medicine and providing for their family. Making sick people bear a far larger portion of their treatment costs undermines the very concept of insurance. Although any Georgian could be subjected to unreasonably high out-of-pocket costs, those most likely to be affected are living with life-threatening or chronic conditions like lupus.
- Please support House Bill 875 to ensure that Georgians with health insurance have access to the medications they need.

House Bill 92/Senate Bill 242 - Georgia's Family Care Act

- Losing a day's wages, or worse, a job, for keeping a sick child home from school or bringing an aging parent to the doctor undermines families' ability to cover the basics like groceries and rent—spending that keep local businesses and the economy moving. In Georgia, an estimated 878,000 people do not have access to family care days to care for a loved one in need, forcing them to make the impossible choice between taking care of a sick loved one and keeping food on the table.

- That's why we need to pass the Family Care Act, (HB 92/SB 242), which would enable people to use their earned sick time to care for loved ones.
- "As a parent-mentor in a public school system, I work with families every day who do not have the option of using their sick time to care for their kids. I have witnessed the devastating impact that can have on a family."-Kim Chester, Advocate with the GA Council on Developmental Disabilities, Cartersville, GA

FAMILY CARE DAYS WILL STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND BOOST THE ECONOMY:

- More often than we realize, people's jobs are at risk when they need to care for a family member. Nationwide, 23 percent of workers have lost a job or been threatened with job loss for taking time to care for a personal or family illness.
- For many families, the loss of a few days' wages can equal a month's worth of groceries.
- The Family Care Act will help keep working people in their jobs, helping to reduce unemployment.
- Family Care Days strengthens economic security for working people and their families without requiring employers to provide any additional sick days.

FAMILY CARE DAYS WILL SAVE GEORGIA MONEY AND STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH:

- Parents with Family Care Days are less likely to send a sick child to school, reducing the spread of illness in the classroom.
- Parents without Family Care Days are five times more likely to take their child to the emergency room because they were unable to schedule a doctor's visit during normal work hours.
- Children and seniors recover from illness faster when cared for by family members, reducing the length of hospital stays by nearly a third, and improving long-term health.
- The Family Care Act will reduce health risks and control taxpayer-funded health costs.