



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 10, 2023

CONTACT: Kaitlin Perry
(916) 834-1300
kaitlin@perrycom.com

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Today, Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD, Executive Director of the California Access Coalition, and Erin Callahan, Chief Operating Officer of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition, issued the following statement in response to Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb signing [Senate Bill 8](#) into law, which ensures Hoosiers are not paying more for their medicines than their health insurance company or Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM):

“We applaud Indiana Governor Holcomb and the state Legislature for passing SB 8. Indiana now joins West Virginia and Arkansas in standing up for patients struggling to afford their medicines by passing legislation that will not only improve medication affordability, but also accessibility and adherence.

“When people have health insurance, they expect relief from high prescription drug costs, and they expect access to innovative treatments. Unfortunately, the opposite is occurring.

“Studies have shown how [rebates play a role in increasing drug prices](#), and a recent [JAMA article](#) found that insulin products have an up to 84% rebate in the Medicare Part D market, highlighting how insurers may be hesitant to switch their formularies in favor of medicines with higher rebates. [SB 873](#) by Senator Bradford (D-Gardena) eliminates these perverse incentives, ensuring patients can access the medicines prescribed by their doctor at the rebated cost rather than allowing insurers to favor medicines with the highest rebates and exclude coverage of lower-cost alternatives that do not provide rebates.

“SB 873 (Bradford) has the support of more than 50 patient advocacy organizations and will reform our state’s broken prescription drug rebate system to ensure patients benefit, not health insurance corporations and their pharmacy middlemen.

“With recent rate filings out of West Virginia reporting no substantial increases in premiums associated with sharing rebates with consumers, there is no reason California should not promptly join West Virginia, Arkansas, and Indiana in reducing out-of-pocket costs for patients at the pharmacy counter.”

About California Access Coalition

The California Access Coalition (CAC) is a network of local and state behavioral health organizations, patient advocacy groups, and pharmaceutical companies that advocate to eliminate barriers that keep Californians from accessing medication and behavioral health treatment. Follow CAC on [Twitter](#) and learn more by visiting www.californiaaccesscoalition.org.

About Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition

The Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC), a 501(c)4 organization, is a grassroots alliance of thousands of people with diabetes, caregivers, patient advocates, health professionals, disease

organizations and companies working collaboratively to promote and support public policy initiatives to improve the health of people with diabetes. Learn more by visiting www.diabetespac.org.

About Patient Pocket Protector Coalition:

PPPC is a diverse group of chronic illness advocacy groups and stakeholders that is [focused](#) on addressing Pharmacy Benefit manager (PBM) rebate reform to protect the pockets of patients burdened with the high cost of managing their health every day. Membership is open to any advocacy group looking to lower costs for Americans living with chronic illness. Learn more by visiting www.patientpocketprotector.org.