



A CAMPAIGN BY  CALIFORNIA ACCESS COALITION
ADVOCATING FOR ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Patient Testimony, Colleen Henderson

Every month, Colleen Henderson goes to the pharmacy to pick up Humira for her daughter. Katie Henderson has Hidradenitis Suppurativa and takes Humira to prevent excruciating flare ups that cause her skin to bubble like a third-degree burn. If Colleen ensures her daughter doesn't have a lapse in treatment, she can keep the painful flare ups to a minimum.

Why would she have a lapse in treatment? Because the out-of-pocket cost of Humira for Colleen is a staggering \$5,300 a month, even with health insurance.

Because Colleen can't afford to pay \$5,300 every single month for this medication, she works with AbbVie to receive a savings plan card that covers six months' worth of prescriptions. With that card, Colleen's out-of-pocket cost at the pharmacy goes from \$5,300 to a manageable \$130. After her six months are up, Colleen has to pay up front for Humira at the pharmacy and submit a reimbursement to AbbVie every single month. If she didn't, she wouldn't be able to afford the medication her daughter needs to maintain quality of life.

"What's the point of insurance if I have it and still can't afford the medication my daughter needs?"
– Colleen Henderson, Sacramento

At the end of the day, patients should not have to jump through hoops to buy the prescriptions they need. In virtually every other scenario, rebates are passed to the consumer. When someone buys a toaster or an appliance, the rebate is given to the consumer, not the company or the hardware store. Even in other areas of health care like in-person doctor visits, the patient pays the negotiated price. Why is this not the case with prescription drugs?

Assembly Bill 2942 authored by Assemblymember Tom Daly (D-Anaheim) and sponsored by the California Access Coalition will ensure at least 90% of rebates are given to the patient. This is a commonsense solution that will lower health care costs for all Californians. Particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable patients must be able to afford the medications they need to survive.