

April 29, 2025

The Honorable James M. Murphy
House Chair
State House Room 254
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Paul R. Feeney
Senate Chair
State House Room 112
Boston, MA 02133

Re: MassBio Statement in Support of H.1101/S.698, An Act relative to consumer deductibles

Dear Chair Murphy, Chair Feeney, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of MassBio and our over 1,800 member companies that research, develop, and deliver life-enhancing therapies, I write in support of H.1101.S.698, *relative to consumer deductibles*, and urge the Committee to pass this critical patient-centered reform.

H.1101/S.698 would ensure that any payments made toward a patient's healthcare costs, whether directly by the patient or on their behalf by a third-party administrator or via manufacturer copay assistance programs, will count toward their overall cost-sharing obligations. This includes copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and out-of-pocket maximums. By requiring insurers to count these contributions, the legislation aims to reduce the financial burden patients face in accessing medically necessary treatments.

Recent data from the [2025 CHIA Annual Report](#) highlights the growing financial strain on Massachusetts residents:

- **Rising Cost-Sharing:** Between 2021 and 2023, member cost-sharing grew by **12.9%**, outpacing the **9.7%** increase in statewide wages and salaries during the same period, indicating that patients are shouldering a growing share of healthcare costs.
- **High-Deductible Health Plans (HDHPs):** Enrollment in HDHPs has increased, particularly among small and mid-size employer groups, leading to higher out-of-pocket expenses for enrollees. In 2023, member cost-sharing was highest for small and mid-size firms.
- **Affordability Challenges:** Despite near-universal health coverage, Massachusetts residents face growing concerns due to rising healthcare costs, including year over year increases in premiums, copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles.

These trends underscore the importance of policies that alleviate financial barriers to care. By ensuring that third-party payments count toward patients' cost-sharing requirements, this legislation provides much-needed relief to Commonwealth residents struggling with healthcare affordability.

Massachusetts has long been a leader in healthcare innovation and patient protection. However, as of 2025, 21 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico [have enacted laws](#) restricting the use of copay accumulator adjustment programs. Of these, nine states and Puerto Rico have implemented protections that require insurers to apply *all* copay assistance toward patients' cost-sharing obligations, regardless of their source. We now have the opportunity to align with this momentum and affirm that cost should not prohibit patient access to needed medicine.

Once again, MassBio urges you to issue H.1101/S.698 a favorable report as swiftly as possible. Thank you for your continued leadership and for your consideration of this vital reform. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at (617)-674-5100 or kendalle.oconnell@massbio.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KO', with a stylized flourish.

Kendalle Burlin O'Connell
CEO & President
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio)