



Cole's Act / CoPay

(SB 203 / AB 173)



Bill Summary



IMPACT TO RARE DISEASE

Patients with rare diseases often face significantly higher healthcare costs, and many rely on **copay assistance programs** to afford their life-saving medications. However, many insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) currently use practices that prevent these third-party payments from counting toward a patient's deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

This practice, known as a **copay accumulator**, can force patients to pay thousands of dollars after their assistance runs out, making it difficult to afford and adhere to their prescribed treatments.

***Please co-sponsor and
bring this bill to a vote!***

WHAT IS THIS BILL ABOUT?

This bill protects patients from harmful pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) practices and makes sure copay assistance counts toward deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums.

Named for Cole Schmidtknecht, who lost his life after being unable to afford his medication, the bill **bans copay accumulator programs**, stops unfair PBM fees, requires fair reimbursement, and protects patient choice.

Over 20 states have already passed similar protections, this bill would bring these protections to Wisconsin.

SPONSORS AND CO-SPONSORS OF LEGISLATION

as of 9-8-2025

Senators

- Mary Felzkowski – R
- Howard Marklein - R
- Rachael Cabral-Guevara - R
- Kristin Dassler-Alfheim – D
- Dora Drake – D
- Jodi Habush Sinykin - D
- LaTonya Johnson – D
- Sarah Keyeski – D
- Christopher Larson – D
- Steve Nass – R
- Brad Pfaff – D
- Romaine Quinn – R
- Melissa Ratcliff – D
- Kelda Roys – D
- Mark Spreitzer - D
- Van Wanggaard – R
- Eric Wimberger – R
- Jesse James R

Representatives

- Todd Novak – R
- Travis Tranel – R
- Scott Allen – R
- David Armstrong – R
- Robert Brooks – R
- Calvin Callahan – R
- Joan Fitzgerald – D
- Brent Jacobson – R
- Alex Joers – D
- KarenKirsch – D
- Joel Kitchens – R
- Dan Knodl – R
- Rob Kreibich – R
- Maureen McCarville – D
- Vinnie Miresse – D
- Jeffrey Mursau – R
- Jerry O'Connor – R
- Jessie Rodriguez – R
- Shae Sortwell – R
- Paul Tittl – R
- Chuck Wichgers – R
- Duke Tucker – R