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Testimony Re: S2608- Limit out of Pocket Co-pays for Specialty Drugs
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to voice its support for Senate Bill 2608. This bill would limit out-of-pocket monthly co-pays for specialty drugs to \$150. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to thank Senator Valverde for sponsoring this bill and thank the cosponsors, Senators DiMario, Euer, and Lawson.

Specialty drug prices for children and adolescents are increasing and this price increases impacts usage and health outcomes.

Specialty drugs are defined as medications that involve special drug handling and/or parental administration and are typically used to treat complex medical conditions. Most specialty drugs do not have substitutes to create competition and help lower their prices and are defined as a prescription priced at \$670 or more per month. This bill will improve affordability for those whose well-being is dependent on specialty drugs.

- Thousands of Rhode Islanders struggle with chronic conditions and require prescription specialty drugs to stay well.
- In 2016, 25% of Rhode Islanders reported they stopped taking a prescribed drug due to cost.
- Some children have conditions, including HIV/AIDS, childhood cancers, and other rare diseases, that require high-cost drugs for an extended period.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT supports Senate Bill 2608 which would limit out-of-pocket monthly copays for specialty drugs to \$150. No one in Rhode Island should have to ration their medicine because they can't afford their prescriptions. Thank you for the leadership that the General Assembly has shown on this and for the opportunity to testify today.

