

Gary Feldman, MD
President

August 23, 2023

Madelaine A. Feldman, MD, FACR
VP, Advocacy & Government Affairs

Assembly Member Chris R. Holden
Chair of the Appropriations
Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8220

Assembly Member Megan Dahle,
Vice Chair of the Appropriations
Committee

Michael Saitta, MD, MBA
Treasurer

Aaron Broadwell, MD
Secretary

Submitted electronically: appropriations@assembly.ca.gov

Erin Arnold, MD
Director

RE: Support for SB 873 (Prescription drugs: cost sharing)

Leyka M. Barbosa, MD, FACR
Director

Dear Chair Holden, Vice Chair Dahle, and members of the California State Assembly
Committee on Appropriations –

Kostas Botsoglou, MD
Director

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is a national organization
composed of over 30 state and regional professional rheumatology societies. CSRO
was formed by physicians to ensure excellence and access to the highest quality care
for patients with rheumatologic, autoimmune, and musculoskeletal disease.

Michael S. Brooks, MD, FACP, FACR
Director

Amish J. Dave, MD, MPH
Director

We are writing today in full support of Senate Bill 873, which would immediately
provide cost relief for rheumatology patients by requiring their cost sharing amounts
to be reduced by rebates and discounts received by health plans.

Harry Gewanter, MD, FAAP, MACR
Director

Adrienne R. Hollander, MD
Director

Health plans and PBMs receive rebates from manufacturers that reduce the cost of
their drugs by a substantial amount. However, our patients are stuck paying cost-
sharing based on the list price of a drug rather than the actual price. This system is
patently unfair to patients, and it makes treatments more unaffordable than they
would otherwise be.

Firas Kassab, MD, FACR
Director

Robert W. Levin, MD
Director

Instead, patients should benefit from the rebates and discounts that they themselves
are generating through their medically necessary treatments.

Amar Majhoo, MD
Director

Gregory W. Niemer, MD
Director

For these reasons, CSRO fully supports SB 873. We appreciate your consideration of
our comments.

Joshua Stolow, MD
Director

Respectfully,

HEADQUARTER OFFICE

Ann Marie Moss
Executive Director

Gary Feldman, MD, FACR
President, CSRO



Madelaine Feldman, MD, FACR
Vice President Advocacy &
Government Affairs, CSRO