



March 21, 2017

The Honorable Stephen Huffman
Chair, House Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
12th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman:

On behalf of the more than 5,000 physician members of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) I am writing to express strong support for HB 72, a bill that gives physicians a transparent and standardized process to appeal step therapy requirements for patients needing a particular treatment.

Step therapy is a one-size-fits-all policy and for many physicians and patients it has become a barrier to getting the right care at the right time. Step therapy can undermine physicians' ability to effectively treat patients, lower quality of care, and lead to set backs and disease progression for patients.

HB 72 does not prohibit insurers from using step therapy but seeks to balance cost containment with patient needs. The bill does not ban step therapy, or the number of steps an insurer can implement. Patients may still need a prior authorization from their insurers.

HB 72 protects patients by ensuring that step therapy programs are based on clinical guidelines developed by independent experts and that the exceptions process for step therapy is transparent and accessible to patients and health care providers.

We need your help to ensure that physicians can override step therapy when necessary for the care of their patients. We urge you to support HB 72.

Sincerely,

Elayne R. Biddlestone
EVP/CEO

Cc: Members of the House Health Committee

The Voice of Physicians in Northern Ohio