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**Written Testimony Regarding Policies to Limit the Use of Step Therapy
Ohio House Health Committee
March 22, 2017**

ACS CAN supports efforts in HB72 to ensure that cancer patients and survivors have access to the most effective medications needed to treat their disease or condition.

To control costs, health plans may impose step therapy on some drugs. Step therapy is a tool insurers use to limit how much they spend covering patients' medications. Under step therapy, a patient must try one or more drugs chosen by their insurer—usually based on financial, not medical, considerations—before coverage is granted for the drug prescribed by the patient's health care provider. Patients may be required to try one or more alternative prescription drugs that are of lower cost to the insurer, but may not be the best therapy for that patient.

Exemptions from step therapy do not prohibit insurers from using step therapy but seek to balance cost containment with patient needs. ACS CAN supports legislation that protects patients by:

- ensuring that step therapy programs are based on clinical guidelines developed by independent experts.
- ensuring that the exceptions process for step therapy is transparent and accessible to patients and health care providers.
- establishing a basic framework for when it is medically appropriate to exempt patients from step therapy.

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