



To: Members of the House Health Committee  
From: Ohioans for Step Therapy Reform  
Date: December 4, 2018  
Re: Senate Bill 56 & House Bill 72 Update

---

We wanted to provide you with an update on Step Therapy/Fail First reform (SB56/HB72) as Ohio patients continue to push for better access to appropriate prescription medication in the final days of the Ohio Legislature.

As evidenced by the continued compromises that have been made by the coalition advocates, we have reached broad consensus among interested parties with the latest version of SB 56 and HB 72. Included in the language of these companion bills are three opportunities for step therapy exemptions for Ohio patients:

1. The required drug is contraindicated for that specific patient, pursuant to the drug's FDA prescribing information
2. The patient has tried the required prescription drug while under their current, or a previous, health benefit plan, or another FDA approved AB-rated prescription drug, and such prescription drug was discontinued due to lack of efficacy or effectiveness, diminished effect, or an adverse event
3. The patient is stable on a prescription drug selected by their health care provider for the medical condition under consideration, regardless of whether or not the drug was prescribed when the patient was covered under the current or a previous health benefit plan

In a major push toward passage of step therapy reform in the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, the coalition has agreed to remove components of the bill that would have allowed for an exemption in the best interest of the patient. While we feel the best interest provisions are imperative for creating sound health care policy that prioritizes patients, we also recognize the immediate need to help as many of the hundreds of thousands of Ohioans as possible whose health is currently being negatively impacted by harmful step therapy protocols.

As time is running out, the cry from patient advocates is growing louder. It's time to help Ohioans get access to the medications they need. It's time to pass SB 56 and HB 72.

Ohioans for Step Therapy Reform Coalition Members:

Academy of Integrative Pain Management  
Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern  
Ohio  
Advocacy Council of the American College of Allergy,

Asthma and Immunology  
Alliance for Patient Access  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics Ohio Chapter

American Association of Diabetes Educators  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons, Ohio Chapter  
American Diabetes Association  
American Lung Association, Ohio and Michigan  
Arthritis Foundation  
Cancer Support Community, Greater Cincinnati-Northern KY and Central Ohio  
Central Ohio Diabetes Association  
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.  
Cincinnati Area Senior Services  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
Columbus Chapter Black Nurses Association  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America: national, Central Ohio, and Southwest Ohio  
Global Heathy Living Foundation  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio  
Mended Hearts of Central Ohio  
Mended Hearts, National  
Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition  
Mental Health America of Franklin County  
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America  
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America, Columbus Support Group  
National Alliance on Mental Illness, Ohio  
National Kidney Foundation, Central Ohio  
National Liver Foundation, Heartland Division  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians  
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition  
Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses  
Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities  
Ohio Association of Rheumatology  
Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council  
Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology  
Ohio Chapter National Association of Pediatric Nurses

Ohio Dermatological Association  
Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice  
Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association  
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society  
Ohio Nurses Association  
Ohio Osteopathic Association  
Ohio Pharmacist Association  
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association  
Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Prescription Assistance Network of Stark County, Inc.  
Prevent Blindness Ohio  
Public Children Services Association of Ohio  
Susan G. Komen Columbus, Northeast Ohio, Northwest Ohio, Southwest Ohio  
The Epilepsy Association (serving northeast Ohio)  
The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers  
U.S. Pain Foundation