



December 4, 2018

The Honorable Steve Huffman
Chairman, House Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman,

On behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our concerns about a specific provision contained in House Bill 72, legislation that seeks to make changes to the way health insurers utilize the practice of step therapy. As you know, rising health care costs continue to be a major concern to Ohio employers, and step therapy is an important tool that helps balance access to effective drugs with cost containment.

The specific provision to which I refer is the bill's requirement that an exemption to step therapy must be granted if "the required prescription drug is not in the best interest of the patient." This exemption is very broad and subjective, and we believe it could be used to circumvent the step therapy process, effectively rendering it meaningless.

As you may be aware, this provision was removed today in a substitute version of companion legislation, Senate Bill 56, currently pending in the Senate.

We urge you to please remove this provision from HB 72, as well, and also to adopt the other changes incorporated by the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee into SB 56. Making HB 72 mirror the current version of SB 56 would alleviate our concerns about the negative impact HB 72 could have on the costs of employer health care coverage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Lake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Lake
Vice President, Government Affairs

