



4665 Cornell Rd.
Suite 109
Cincinnati, OH 45243

March 7, 2017

Chairman Burke
Health, Human Resources and Medicaid Committee
Columbus, OH

RE: SB 56 – Support

Dear Chairman Burke and Members of the Health, Human Resources and Medicaid Committee:

The Arthritis Foundation strongly encourages you to support SB 56 which provides standards for step therapy and "fail first protocols".

The Arthritis Foundation is the Champion of Yes. Leading the fight for the arthritis community, the Foundation helps conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections. We work on behalf of over 2,547,000 Ohioans (including 11,500 children) who live with the chronic pain of arthritis every day. We continue to raise valuable funds to support research to find better treatments and a cure.

This legislation does not ban the use of step therapy. SB 56 would increase the safety and effectiveness of step therapy protocols to ensure patients have access treatment decisions that are based on a patient's medical history and recognized clinical practice guidelines. For people with arthritis, it is crucial that if they are stable on a medication, that they should be allowed to continue on that medication and not have to go through the step therapy process again.

We are proud to advocate on behalf of the over 2,547,000 men, women, and children with arthritis in Ohio– the number one cause of disability in the U.S. – and ask for your support for SB 56. Please contact me at pfields@arthritis.org or (513) 600-0752 with any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Fields".

Pam Fields, State Director of Advocacy and Access
Arthritis Foundation