



Our Mission: To drive efforts to cure psoriatic disease and improve the lives of those affected.

Senator Dave Burke
Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
51 State House
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Support SB 56 (Lehner) – Adopt Requirements for Step Therapy Protocols

Dear Senator Burke:

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is a non-profit, voluntary health agency dedicated to curing psoriatic disease and improving the lives of those affected. The Psoriasis Foundation is the leading patient advocacy group for the 8.3 million Americans and 360,000 Ohioans living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Step therapy, also known as ‘fail first’, is a health insurance mandate that restricts spending on prescription drugs. This tool requires patients to ‘fail first’, often multiple times, on certain medications before they are able to receive the treatment originally prescribed by their physician. All too often, this delays access to optimal therapy, while potentially exacerbating a patient’s condition.

As systemic diseases associated with life-altering symptoms, the timely treatment of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis is of the utmost importance when managing long-term patient health. The Medical Board of the National Psoriasis Foundation recognizes the insurance companies’ need to keep costs down. However, the best interests of the patient must be the priority for both physicians and insurers alike.

The legislation before you ensures that step therapy is based on the most current clinical data and that it is available to the consumer in a transparent manner. Furthermore, it provides a timeline for a response to the request based upon language agreed upon in other states. Finally, it outlines clear and concise exceptions to the step therapy protocols based on medical necessity. This legislation, which is not a ban, strikes a fair balance between cost containment and health of the patient.

As the committee considers SB 56, we urge you to report this measure favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Beranek".

Randy Beranek, President and CEO