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**Statement to the Senate Health, Human Services and
Medicaid Committee in Support of SB 56 and HB 72**

March 7, 2017

The American Lung Association in Ohio strongly supports SB 56 and HB 72, which seeks to minimize barriers to treatment by improving the step therapy process.

We must allow health care providers and patients to make decisions based on the best treatment options and a patient's medical history and not on health plan step therapy protocols.

Step therapy puts the decision about the most effective medications for you in the hands of insurance company personnel who has never met you, while taking control from you and your physician.

Step therapy has shown it can have a negative impact on patients, including delayed access to the most effective treatment, disease progression and significant burdens on health care providers and their patients, as well as increases in health care costs.

They can be especially harmful when patients switch to a new insurance company that may require the patient to start the step process all over again.

These bills will require step therapy guidelines developed by medical experts and require transparency. This law would provide a clear and consistent appeals process so physicians can more quickly override step therapy requirements when they think it's best for their patients' health and treatment.

The American Lung Association in Ohio asks for your support of this important legislation.

Respectfully,



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