



**State Representative Nickie J. Antonio
Minority Whip**

Health Committee
March 15, 2017
Sponsor Testimony HB 72

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, and members of the Health committee, thank you for asking us to testify this morning on HB 72. I am pleased to be offering this important legislation again this General Assembly with Rep. Johnson.

Step therapy can be an important tool as part of total patient care. Our bill does not seek to ban step therapy, but rather reform the practice to provide better outcomes for patients and give doctors more freedom to treat as they see fit. Prescribing medications should be rooted in best treatment available for each individual, not rooted in cost. While we do look for ways to make healthcare more affordable, sacrificing patient care and outcomes should not be necessary to achieving that goal.

HB 72 helps to reform step therapy by:

- ✓ Requiring that an insurer's process for requesting a step therapy override is transparent and available to the provider and patient.

- ✓ Allowing automatic exceptions to step therapy requirements when:
 - The required prescription drug is contraindicated or will likely cause an adverse reaction
 - The required prescription drug is expected to be ineffective
 - The patient has previously tried the required drug or a drug in the same pharmacologic class and the drug was ineffective or caused an adverse event
 - The required prescription drug is not in the best interests of the patient based on medical appropriateness
 - The patient is stable on a prescription drug for the medical condition under consideration.

- ✓ Ensuring that step therapy programs are based on clinical guidelines developed by independent experts.

If a patient and doctor know that one particular drug works better than all others, they should not be required to first try several others that will not treat the patient and will prolong discomfort.

Thank you for your consideration and we would be happy to take questions at this time.