



March 28, 2017

Governor Terry Branstad  
1007 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**Re: NORD Support for House File (H) 233**

Dear Governor Branstad:

On behalf of the 1-in-10 people in Iowa living with a rare disease, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) urges you to support H 233, an act relating to step therapy protocols.

NORD is the leading voice of the rare disease community dedicated to helping people with rare “orphan” diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. Any disease affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans is considered rare. We believe strongly that every patient deserves the medical care that is best suited for their medical situation and that is most likely to give them the best results. Based on the reports we receive from member organizations, as well as individuals, step therapy is increasingly being applied in Iowa with little regard for a patient’s treatment history and specific medical needs.

As written, H 233 will address this issue by providing new protections for patients when health plan implement step therapy. First, it requires that step therapy is based on medical criteria and clinical guidelines developed by independent experts. Second, it will create a simple and accessible appeals process for patients and providers. And finally, it will allow patients to be exempted from step therapy completely based on a proven medical need.

To ensure patient safety, Iowa needs to ensure that step therapy does not interfere with appropriate care. By implementing the protections created in H 233, Iowa will be protecting patients while still enabling health plans to achieve the cost saving benefits of step therapy when it is appropriate.

Once again, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on this legislation and strongly urge the committee to support H 233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter L. Saltonstall", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Peter L. Saltonstall, CEO