



April 15, 2019



House Committee on Economic Development, Banking, Insurance and Commerce  
PO Box 1401  
Dover, DE 19903



Dear Committee Members,



The Delaware Coalition for Step Therapy Reform, a coalition of advocacy organizations representing thousands of patients and providers throughout the state, asks for your support of HB 105, An Act to Amend Title 18 of the Delaware Code Relating To Health Insurance Contracts. This important legislation will provide patients timely access to the medications they need to maintain their health.



While step therapy can be an appropriate way to control costs, for some patients this “one-size-fits-all” process can produce an adverse health outcome. Currently, Delaware law does not allow for common-sense exemptions to step therapy protocols or provide timelines for patients appealing these restrictions. For Delaware children and adults with chronic, debilitating and sometimes life-threatening disease, delaying access to the appropriate treatment, or requiring them to “fail-first” on a medication an insurer chooses rather than one originally prescribed by their physician can have a significant negative impact on a patient’s continuity of care. This can result in progression of their condition, loss of function or mobility, or other devastating consequences as well as increased overall healthcare costs.



HB 105 creates common-sense reforms for all Delaware patients by guaranteeing access to a clear process to request a step therapy exception when it is medically appropriate. This successfully balances protecting patients while still allowing the use of step therapy.



Your support will help ensure a healthier and more productive Delaware patient population. For more information, please contact Mary Bartlett, State Director of Advocacy with the Arthritis Foundation, at [mbartlett@arthritis.org](mailto:mbartlett@arthritis.org) or 518-588-5898.



Sincerely,



Delaware Coalition for Step Therapy Reform

