



# OREGON RHEUMATOLOGY ALLIANCE

Advocacy, Education & Quality Health Care

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## Oregon Rheumatology Alliance supports Senate Bill 163

Fail First/Step Therapy negatively affects the health care system by:

Hindering Costs to Medication  
Increasing the administrative burden on providers  
Delaying the utilization of other health care services.

Allowing payers to make treatment decisions interferes with the doctor-patient relationship. Step therapy can enable payers to override physicians' care decisions and determine a patient's medication regimen, often times preventing doctors from prescribing a preferred treatment option based on their clinical judgment and knowledge of the patient.

Increasingly, insurers are utilizing step therapy as a way to rein in spending. But patients who get access to the right therapy when needed will save our health care system resources and time. Physicians not payers should be in control of their patients, that is why we support Senate Bill 163.

Thank you for your time.

Cody Wasner, MD  
President, ORA