

10117 SE Sunnyside Rd.  
Suite F-408  
Clackamas, OR 97015



February 20, 2014

To: Committee on Health Care and Human Services  
Memorandum in Support of HB 4013 -2

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice-Chair Kruse, and members of the committee, my name is BJ Cavnor and I am the Executive Director of One in Four Chronic Health. On behalf of the organizations and listed below, I am here today to ask for your support of the step therapy provisions being considered as an amendment to HB 4013-2.

One in Four is a collaborative working on behalf of patients living with chronic medical conditions. These conditions include cancer, HIV, heart and lung diseases, Lupus and other auto-immune conditions and hepatitis.

Under current law, insurance plans have the option to require patients to try and fail on less expensive drugs before they will cover more expensive treatments. One in Four, and the organizations listed below, believe that this creates an unnecessary barrier for patients that impacts adherence, the health of the patient, and public health outcomes.

We applaud the language and intent of this amendment to clarify the rules around step therapy and offer greater transparency. We support including the medical rationale for a specific step therapy and the ability of the provider to use their professional medical judgment in determining the best course of treatment for the patient.

We believe that this amendment will support treatment decisions made between the patient and their provider in choosing the best drug therapy for their unique individual needs.

The additional time of unnecessary provider and pharmacist visits, the cost of ineffective medications and the suffering of the patient are all avoidable and would be dramatically reduced by this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to you on this issue.

BJ Cavnor  
Executive Director,  
One in Four Chronic Health

Lorren Sandt  
Executive Director,  
Caring Ambassadors Project

Debbie McCabe  
President,  
Molly's Fund Fighting Lupus

Shelly Bailey, MBA  
Pharmacist,  
Central Drug Pharmacy

Mary Marshall,  
Interim Executive Director,  
Cascade AIDS Project

Brian Kennedy  
Executive Director  
Alliance for Patient Access