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Northwest
Chronic Healthcare
Collaborative

February 21, 2017

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members,
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 NE Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of SB 526

Madam Chair and Committee Members,

One in Four Chronic Health is committed to improving access to affordable treatment for patients living with chronic health conditions.

The issue of “fail first” or step therapies are of concern to all patients, but especially to patients living with chronic health conditions. Relegating patients to a drug therapy based on cost alone is a short-sighted solution impacting not only patient outcomes, but ultimately adding to the overall cost of health care when patients must return to their providers for an effective medication.

We support SB 526 because it allows providers to prescribe the correct medications based on medical history, clinical evidence and in partnership with patients. SB 526 does not eliminate step therapy, but allows providers the option of choice in prescribing and asks health insurance providers to respond to prior authorization requests in a timely manner.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 21% of people use three or more therapeutic prescription drugs per 30-day period. Adherence is crucial in managing patients with chronic health conditions, and having the correct medication greatly improves adherence and health outcomes.

SB 526 would allow patients and providers to make the more informed decisions about drug therapies, reducing the number of provider visits and improving adherence. We believe that this will improve the lives, and outcomes of patients, and reduce the number of provider visits to achieve desired clinical outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on this issue. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 206/601-8453.

Regards,



BJ Cavnor
Executive Director