

Dear Chair Patterson and Committee Members,

On behalf of Allergy & Asthma Network, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people with allergies, asthma and related conditions, I write in support of HB2517A, and ask that you vote yes on this bill in the Senate Committee on Healthcare. Passage of HB2517A would not prohibit commercial payer utilization management programs, but rather would ensure transparent, efficient and fair processes for patients and providers.

It is time for Oregon to reform its step therapy and prior authorization protocols to ensure that they are safe for patients, clinically grounded, and transparent to patients and health care providers. HB2517A protects patients by:

PROVIDING REASONABLE EXCEPTIONS TO STEP THERAPY REQUIREMENTS:

- Ensuring that fail first protocols are based on clinical guidelines developed by independent experts
- Establish a framework for when it is medically appropriate to exempt patients from fail first policies
- Ensuring that the exception process is transparent and accessible to patients and health care providers

REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:

- Require process for electronic submission of authorization or exception requests;
- Clarify necessary information needed to submit a completed utilization management request; and
- Specify health service authorizations are valid for at least 60 days and, for chronic disease treatments, 12 months.

IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY AND NAVIGATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES:

- Require insurers to clearly identify the drugs, devices and services requiring utilization management, together with relevant exception criteria and detail process for submitting a utilization management request;
- Ensure providers will receive reason for a denied request; and
- Require insurers to provide notification of changes to utilization management within reasonable timeframe.

HB2517A appropriately balances the competing goals of protecting patients from adverse health outcomes and controlling healthcare costs.

I hope I can count on you and the Senate Committee on Healthcare to take a stand for patients by supporting HB2517A to ensure asthma patients get the right medicine at the right time.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me at 800-878-4403 if you have any questions and to learn more about Allergy & Asthma Network, visit www.AllergyAsthmaNetwork.org.

Sincerely,

Kelly Barta
State Advocacy Lead