



National
Eczema
Association

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The Honorable Deb Patterson
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Patterson and Senate Committee on Health Care Members:

The National Eczema Association **strongly encourages you to support HB 2517**, which provides standards for step therapy and prior authorization. NEA is the driving force for an eczema community fueled by knowledge, strengthened through collective action and propelled by the promise for a better future. I have heard firsthand accounts on the issues the eczema community face surrounding step therapy (failing multiple therapies, required to have severe symptoms before the original doctor recommended treatment would be covered) and prior authorization. This legislation is of critical importance.

Step therapy happens when insurers require patients to take one or several medications before approving the medication prescribed by the patient's health care provider. Though step therapy is appropriate in some cases, navigating an appeal can be confusing and time consuming for patients and their healthcare providers. This legislation does not ban the use of step therapy, but instead puts additional guardrails in place. HB 2517 will:

- Provide reasonable exceptions for a patient and provider to override the step therapy protocol when:
 - The patient has already tried and failed on the preferred medication;
 - The patient is already stabilized on a medication;
 - The patient has already tried and failed the insurer's preferred medication or one with same mechanism of action; or
 - The preferred drug is not in the patient's best interest, based on medical necessity.
- Reduce administrative burden on patients and healthcare providers
- Improve transparency and navigation of administrative processes.

I strongly urge the members of this committee to support HB 2517. Please contact me at michele@nationaleczema.org or (773) 304-7290 with any questions.

Sincerely,
Michele Guadalupe

Michele Guadalupe, MPH
Associate Director of Advocacy and Access