

November 8, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

Thank you for your pursuit of passing a legislative package aimed at reforming pharmacy benefit managers' (PBMs) business practices. These practices, which are driving up costs and impeding access to essential medications, have been of concern for patient organizations across the nation. On behalf of the 110 below patient and provider organizations, we write to urge you to pass comprehensive PBM reform legislation, and, critically, to include the *Safe Step Act* (S. 652/H.R. 2630) in the final package. This inclusion is vital to ensuring timely consumer access to medically necessary treatments.

The Safe Step Act stands as a crucial safeguard, ensuring that employer health plans offer an expedient and medically reasonable step therapy exceptions process. Step therapy is a complex form of prior authorization that requires patients to try and fail on insurer-preferred treatments before the plan will cover the treatment initially selected by the patient and their provider. When medically inappropriate, step therapy is particularly egregious as it can delay needed care for months and lead to severe or irreversible health outcomes for patients.

The Safe Step Act was amended and included in S. 1339, the *Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform Act*. It is founded on legislation that has been [passed and successfully implemented in 37 states](#). While the state laws are a step forward for many patients, millions of Americans in those states and across the nation do not have access to a timely step therapy exceptions process because self-insured employer health plans are exempt from state laws.

In any comprehensive PBM reform, it is of paramount importance to incorporate patient-centric changes that will directly enhance consumer access to critical treatments. The Safe Step Act – [endorsed by over 215 patient and provider organizations](#) – empowers patients to seek effective treatment if a step therapy protocol is not suitable for them. Furthermore, it streamlines step therapy exceptions requests for patients and physicians, all while fortifying the vital patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for your consideration to include the Safe Step Act in the final PBM reform package. We appreciate the intent of Congress to improve the prescription drug market and urge you to include these patient centered reforms. For further discussion or additional information, please contact Sarah Buchanan with the National Psoriasis Foundation at sbuchanan@psoriasis.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ADAP Advocacy
AiArthritis
Aimed Alliance
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy
Alliance for Patient Access
American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Neurology
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Rheumatology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
American Urological Association
Arizona Prostate Cancer Coalition, Inc.
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Clinical Oncology
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Women in Rheumatology
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Autoimmune Association
Beyond Celiac
Biomarker Collaborative
Cancer Support Community
Caregiver Action Network
Celiac Disease Foundation
Chronic Disease Coalition
Coalition of Skin Diseases
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups
Color of Crohn's and Chronic Illness
Community Access National Network

Community Oncology Alliance (COA)
Crazy Creole Mommy Life
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
CURED (Campaign Urging Research for Eosinophilic Diseases)
Derma Care Access Network
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Digestive Health Physicians Association
Dup15q Alliance
Epilepsy Alliance America
Epilepsy Foundation
Exon 20 Group
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
HealthyWomen
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hereditary Angioedema Association
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
IBDMoms
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
Infusion Access Foundation
Infusion Providers Alliance (IPA)
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders
International Myeloma Foundation
International Pain Foundation
Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation
LUNGevery
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
MET Crusaders
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
National Association For Continence
National Ataxia Foundation
National Bleeding Disorders Foundation
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Eczema Association
National Infusion Center Association (NICA)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia
National Organization of Rheumatology Management
National Pancreas Foundation

National Psoriasis Foundation
National Scleroderma Foundation
Nebraska Nurse Practitioners
Nebraska Pharmacists Association
Nebraska Rheumatology Society
Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Nutritional Therapy for IBD
Ohio Association of Rheumatology
Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc
Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance
Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health
PD-L1 Amplifieds
Pennsylvania Society of Oncology & Hematology
Prevent Blindness
Project Sleep
Puerto Rican Association for Psoriasis Patient Assistance
Rheumatology Association of Iowa
Rheumatology Nurses Society
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
South Asian IBD Alliance (SAIA)
Spondylitis Association of America
Society for Women's Health Research
Susan G. Komen
The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Sturge-Weber Foundation
TSC Alliance
U.S. Pain Foundation
United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.
Vision Health Advocacy Coalition