



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 751</b>		DATE: <b>4/12/2021</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Health and Mental Health Policy</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>EMILY KALMER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>314-518-5145</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK</b>		TITLE: <b>MISSOURI GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE AME</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1001 CRAIG ROAD SUITE 350</b>			
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL: <b>emily.kalmer@cancer.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2021 4:09 PM</b>	
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On behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and those we serve, I am writing to express support for House Bill 751. ACS CAN supports legislation that balances protecting patients when a step therapy protocol would produce an adverse health outcome, with allowing for the use of step therapy when it is appropriate for controlling costs. Step therapy is a tool insurers use to limit how much they spend covering patients' medications. Under a step therapy protocol, a patient must try one or more drugs chosen by their insurer—usually based on financial, not medical, considerations—before coverage is granted for the drug prescribed by the patient's health care provider. Patients may be required to try one or more alternative prescription drugs that are of lower cost to the insurer, but may not be the best therapy for some patients. Scientific breakthroughs mean that, in many cases, a cancer diagnosis now can be managed and treated. Patients need the ability to quickly assess their condition with their doctors and find the best course of treatment for their individual medical needs. Delays in access to the best treatment available, that could be experienced as a result of patients having to go through a step therapy protocol, can pose significant risk to the treatment of disease. Step therapy can undermine physicians' ability to effectively treat patients, can lower quality of care, and lead to setbacks and disease progression for patients. Exemptions from step therapy do not prohibit insurers from using step therapy but seek to balance cost containment with patient needs. ACS CAN supports HB 751 because it protects patients by: ensuring that step therapy programs are based on clinical guidelines developed by independent experts; by ensuring that the exceptions process for step therapy is transparent and accessible to patients and health care providers; and by establishing a basic framework for when it is medically appropriate to exempt patients from step therapy. Unfortunately, due to the public health emergency, I am unable to visit the Capitol to appear in-person to answer questions at the committee hearing. As a public-health organization representing many immunocompromised individuals, we have restricted our in-person activities for the time being. For further information I can be reached at 314-518-5145 or emily.kalmer@cancer.org.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KATHRYN GAMBLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-634-4876</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI PHARMACY ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>213 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KELLY BARTA</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>770-881-3291</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>ALLERGY &amp; ASTHMA NETWORK</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE LEAD ADVOCACY</b>
ADDRESS: <b>8229 BOONE BOULEVARD, SUITE 260</b>		
CITY: <b>VIENNA</b>	STATE: <b>VA</b>	ZIP: <b>22182</b>
EMAIL: <b>kbarta@allergyasthmanetwork.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 11:09 AM</b>

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Allergy & Asthma Network, a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people with allergies, asthma and related conditions, respectfully asks that Members of the Committee support HB751, which places common-sense limits on utilization management, such as step therapy and prior authorization. The proposed reforms included in the bill are especially critical during this time when our health care system is under increased pressure due to COVID-19. It is imperative, now more than ever, that chronic disease patients have timely access to necessary medications. Step therapy, often known as "Fail First", is an insurance protocol used to manage the cost of medications. It requires patients to try and fail one or more insurer-preferred medications before receiving coverage for the medication that their physician recommends. Physicians can request exceptions to step therapy requirements, but insurers may not respond promptly to such requests, resulting in a further delay of treatment. This process can take weeks to months resulting in patients not being able to access the medications they need, leading to worsened symptoms and disease progression. Additionally, by limiting medication options, both doctors and patients are forced to compromise their treatment decisions in a way that is dangerous, time consuming and more expensive in the long-term. Asthma medications are especially prone to step therapy because health plans frequently change the list of preferred medicines they will cover. While step therapy protocols can be cost effective and are appropriate in many cases, Allergy & Asthma Network supports a balanced and common-sense approach ensuring patients have access to the right medication at the right time and that those who are successfully using a treatment do not have to switch. COVID-19 has shone a light on an issue that chronic disease patients have been increasingly facing, and which greatly needs addressing. HB751 will help to ensure a transparent and standard utilization management process for prescribing health care providers and patients. Currently, there are 27 states that have passed step therapy amendments similar to this legislation. It is my hope that the state of Missouri will do the same and enact HB751 into law.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>KRISTEN STIFFLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>303-949-5101</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>NATIONAL PSORIASIS FOUNDATION</b>		TITLE: <b>STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER - CENTRAL REGIO</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>6600 SW 92ND AVE., SUITE 300</b>			
CITY: <b>PORTLAND</b>		STATE: <b>OR</b>	ZIP: <b>97223</b>
EMAIL: <b>kstiffler@psoriasis.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/9/2021 3:59 PM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LAURA BOUSLAUGH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>laura.bouslaugh@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 10:27 AM</b>
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I would like to testify as a parent of a patient.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARK S. BOX, MD</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>816-509-4463</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MIDWEST RHEUMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION, COALITION OF STATE RHEUMATOLOGY ORGANIZATION, ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION</b>		TITLE: <b>PHYSICIAN</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>1010 CARONDELET DR, STE 224A</b>			
CITY: <b>KANSAS CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>64112</b>
EMAIL: <b>mbox@kc.rr.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2021 4:09 PM</b>	
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**Step Therapy Bill HB 751**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MEREDITH MENDOLA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mmendola123@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 1:37 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Greetings and thank you to the committee for the opportunity to share my testimony with you today. Your acceptance of virtual or remote testimony is not only important during a global health crisis like we are experiencing now, but also in everyday situations, where jobs, family, finances, or disability can cause major challenges for constituents in their ability to be with you in person. I am here today asking you to vote yes on House Bill 751 and tell you how it will support people like me living with multiple sclerosis (MS). My name is Meredith Mendola, I live in St. Louis, Missouri, and I have MS. Before MS, I led an active lifestyle. I was once a dancer, a hiker, an avid botanist, and an agricultural researcher. Every day is difficult for me. I have trouble walking because my brain cannot communicate with my legs properly. For the last two years, I have used a cane to help me walk. My toes, feet, and lower legs fluctuate between feeling like they are on fire to tingling like they have constant "pins and needles" to being so numb that I cannot feel them at all. I experience incredible fatigue and extreme intolerance to heat. A temperature change of just a few degrees can cause intense pain and weakness. I can no longer participate in any field research or be outside in the heat and sun. It is even difficult for me to shower. It can sometimes take me a full day to recover from the heat effects of a shower. I was diagnosed with MS five years ago due to extremely intense dizziness and vertigo. Every time I took a step, the world around me shook and shifted. It was impossible for me to drive to work, to the grocery store, or anywhere. I struggled to use a computer for my job. It kept me from leaving my house and it made me very sick to my stomach. It took several trips to my primary care physician and an ear/nose/throat specialist and rounds of antibiotics before the ENT finally ordered an MRI. The results of the MRI were clear. "Several areas of demyelination consistent with neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis". After more tests to confirm and a referral to yet another specialist, this time a neurologist, I was finally on my way to getting some relief. The neurologist prescribed a week of IV steroids to stop the immediate inflammation and make my symptoms go away. However, steroids are not a cure for MS. There is no cure for MS. MS requires disease modifying therapies, or DMTs, to hopefully help keep the disease from progressing. There are several of these medications available as they do not all work in the same way, and patients may need to try multiple options to find one that is effective for their MS. My neurologist prescribed an oral DMT that he had seen a lot of promise in his other patients that he considered "early diagnosis". My insurance company, however, implemented step therapy requirements and ordered me to start on a medicine that required twice-daily injections. This decision was out of step with what my doctor and I decided was best for my MS and my treatment. Step therapy shifts the focus from decisions based on science, to the insurance companies and their standardized processes, and a goal of reducing overall costs. Gratefully, my doctor went through the appeals process to convince the insurance company to cover the oral medication that we agreed was best for me. This took several months to accomplish and eventually I was able to get the oral medication through my specialty pharmacy. Let me be clear -- I

was lucky. As far as I know, and only due to not having an immediate follow up MRI, my MS did not progress in that time delay. But not everyone is so lucky. Beth, another Missouri woman with MS, spent five months appealing her insurance company to get her preferred treatment. In that wait, she acquired several new lesions and experienced significant increases in her disability. This has not only happened to Beth. This is common amongst many in the MS population. With multiple sclerosis, there is no time to fail first. Any time delay can cause an increase in number of lesions and further disability. If House Bill 751 existed when Beth or I were diagnosed with MS, perhaps neither of us would be where we are now. Please support this legislation to ensure that patients and their doctors can make the best medical decisions for them without the interference of insurance companies.





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANTEL DOOLING</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-353-3828</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>113 MADISON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>WAYNE LEE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 11:48 PM</b>	
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**I am Opposed to this Bill. Leave the Treatment to the Medical Health Care Professionals,**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/7/2021 12:35 PM</b>
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**I am Opposed to this Bill. Let's leave this Decision of Medication and Processes to the Medical Professionals by Our Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses and other Medical Professions.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHRIS LONG</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-680-9175</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>ST. LOUIS AREA BUSINESS HEALTH COALITION</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>1319 FRIENDSHIP ROAD</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAM HALLEMEIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-579-7647</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>PCMA</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR STATE AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>45 E NEWTON ST.</b>			
CITY: <b>BOSTON</b>		STATE: <b>MA</b>	ZIP: <b>02118</b>
EMAIL: <b>shallemeier@pcmanet.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Remote</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/5/2021 10:34 AM</b>	

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**Dear Chair Stephens, Members of the Committee, My name is Sam Hallemeier with PCMA, the trade association that represents America's PBMs. I would like to request that I be able to testify virtually on HB 751, step therapy, as I am unable to travel due to the current Covid pandemic. Thanks, Sam Hallemeier Director, State Affairs shallemeier@pcmanet.org (202) 756-5727**



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<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SAM HALLEMEIER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>202-579-7647</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>PCMA</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR STATE AFFAIRS</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>325 7TH STREET, NW, 9TH FLOOR</b>			
CITY: <b>WASHINGTON, DC</b>		STATE: <b>DC</b>	ZIP: <b>20004</b>
EMAIL: <b>shallemeier@pcmanet.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/12/2021 8:23 AM</b>	

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The Honorable Mike Stephens 201 W Capitol Ave Hearing Room 7 Jefferson City, MO 65101 RE: HB 751 Modifies Provisions for Step Therapy; Oppose Dear Chair Stephens, Members of the Committee, On behalf of the Pharmaceutical Care Management Association (PCMA), I am writing you to provide our comments regarding HB 751 (step therapy). PCMA is the national association representing pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which administer prescription drug plans for millions of Americans with health coverage provided through large and small employers, health plans, labor unions, state and federal employee-benefit plans, and government programs. PBMs exist to make drug coverage more affordable by aggregating the buying power of millions of enrollees through their plan sponsor/payer clients. PBMs help consumers obtain lower prices for prescription drugs through price discounts from retail pharmacies, rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers, and using lower-cost dispensing channels. Though employers, health plans, and public programs are not required to use PBMs, most choose to because PBMs help lower the costs of prescription drug coverage. PCMA appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on HB 751. Our industry is concerned about the bill because we believe it will restrict our ability to provide a high quality benefit and put downward pressure on the rising cost of prescription drugs. Health plans and PBMs implement a variety of guidelines and programs that are designed to ensure that patients receive clinically appropriate and cost effective drug therapies. Step therapy is one of these tools. It requires an enrollee to try a medically appropriate first-line drug, typically a generic alternative to a branded product, when a new therapy is initiated. Many drugs have harmful side effects or interact adversely with other medications; step therapy encourages trying safer, alternative therapies first. Every plan has an established exceptions process that will permit the coverage of a drug that is not on a formulary, or reduces out-of-pocket cost if a physician provides information about side effects the patient has experienced from a lower-tiered drug, or offers another documented medical reason. These processes serve as a safeguard against the use of step therapy being too restrictive.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, plans and PBMs use Pharmacy & Therapeutic Committees that are comprised of independent experts including physicians and pharmacists to develop evidence-based guidelines used in drug management programs, such as step therapy, and assure cost controls do not impair the quality of clinical care. Finally, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), "large PBMs and small or insurer-owned PBMs have used step-therapy and prior authorization programs to lower prescription drug costs and increase formulary compliance."<sup>2</sup> Here are some facts to limiting Prior Authorization and Step Therapy in Missouri:

- If Missouri implements prohibitions on PA and ST, projected drug costs for fully insured employers and commercial health plans would increase by \$1 billion in the state over the next ten years.<sup>3</sup>
- Limiting or prohibiting PA and ST would impact employers and health plans that now cover some 1.3 million beneficiaries in Missouri.<sup>4</sup>

In the interest of Missouri patients and payers, it is for these problematic provisions noted

above that we must respectfully oppose HB 751. Given the unique environment millions of Missouri citizens and thousands of plan sponsors find themselves in, now is not the time to increase the cost of providing reliable and affordable access to prescription drugs. Sam Hallemeier Director, State Affairs [shallemeier@pcmanet.org](mailto:shallemeier@pcmanet.org) (202) 756-5727





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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SHANNON COOPER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>660-890-1432</b>	
REPRESENTING: <b>AMERICA'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS</b>		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: <b>208 MADISON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65101</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TRACY KING</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-353-9576</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI INSURANCE COALITION (MIC)</b>		TITLE: <b>GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS</b>
ADDRESS:		
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>	STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL: <b>tracy@strategiclobby.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>4/8/2021 3:38 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		