



June 28 2016

Governor Bruce Rauner  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Rauner:

On behalf of the Illinois step therapy coalition, we ask you sign House Bill 3549 into law. HB3549 passed both legislative chambers this session with a unanimous vote and no opposition.

HB3549 is a key piece of legislation aimed at ensuring thousands of Illinois patients have access to the specific medications prescribed by their healthcare provider. Over the 2015-2016 legislative session, various stakeholders came together, including patient groups, health care providers and the health plans, to work out an agreed bill that will allow Illinois patients to have better access to the most appropriate care for their medical conditions.

HB 3549 is a step in the right direction by putting limits on step therapy which can require patients to try and fail on a series of medications before being allowed to have a medication their healthcare provider has prescribed. Step therapy use is increasing steadily and can affect a wide range of medical conditions, including but not limited to, auto-immune diseases, cancer, mental health, and HIV/AIDS. Cases of step therapy have been documented in patients of all ages.

While HB3549 does not ban step therapy, it gives healthcare providers a clear course by which to appeal the process. Under the legislation, the step therapy process will be more transparent, requiring health plans to provide a reason(s) for denying a prescription drug. The legislation also ensures overrides of the step therapy process if the prescription drug is contraindicated, if the patient has tried and failed on the drug previously, or if the patient is stable on their current prescription medication either from a previous or current health plan.

Our patient and provider advocates thank the legislature and all stakeholders involved for working together to advance this important patient protection bill. With this signing of this legislation into law, Illinois will join other states that have passed similar legislation this year, including Indiana, Missouri, New York and West Virginia.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michele Guadalupe at [mguadalupe@arthritis.org](mailto:mguadalupe@arthritis.org) or (773) 304-7290.

Sincerely,

Members of the Illinois Step Therapy Coalition

CC: Jim Kaitschuk, Legislative Director