



May 9, 2018

Re: HF 3196 – Putting common sense guardrails on step therapy protocols

To the Honorable Members of the Senate:

On behalf of the Minnesota Step Therapy Coalition, a coalition representing thousands of providers and patients throughout Minnesota, we encourage your support and passage of HF 3196, the companion to SF 2897. This bill provides patient protections and guardrails on a practice known as step therapy.

Step therapy is a policy requiring a patient to try and fail first on other medications before receiving their doctor-prescribed medication. The practice has grown increasingly difficult, causing many with chronic diseases to suffer lengthy delays in access to the right treatment, which could result in possible irreversible progression of disease and adverse effects. This may ultimately lead to increases in unnecessary health care costs associated with additional provider visits, ER visits, hospitalizations and other costs.

HF 3196 will create appropriate exceptions to step therapy to improve patient care, reduce unnecessary treatments, and ultimately reduce health care costs by returning prescription decision-making back to health care providers and their patients.

We want to thank Senator Utke for his hard work in bringing all stakeholders together to work on this important legislation.

We also want to praise the bill's co-sponsors, Senators Abeler, Hayden, Housley, and Franzen.

We encourage you to pass HF 3196 and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Members of the Minnesota Step Therapy Coalition