

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](mailto: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  
LUNgevity  
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