May 13, 2020

Louisiana House Committee on Insurance
900 N. 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Chairman Brown and members of the House Committee on Insurance,

On behalf of patients and providers across Louisiana, thank you for your unanimous approval of HB 263 by Rep. Mike Huval to update Louisiana’s existing statutes concerning the practice of step therapy.

We appreciated your attention to our concerns about how step therapy can cause detrimental delays in care and unintended consequences for patients.

As you know, HB 263 updates the decade-old law by adding additional clinically grounded scenarios under which a step therapy exception must be granted, refining the existing language, detailing the process and timelines for exception requests, and creating minimum evidentiary standards for the creation of a step therapy protocol to ensure Louisianans do not face unnecessary adverse events and delays in proper treatment. We also appreciated the line of communication kept open by the health plans, which allowed us to come to an agreement between the stakeholders on how to best address these concerns.

Especially in these uncertain times, we thank you for your support of HB 263, which will help Louisiana patients receive the right medication at the right time.

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Patient Access
ALS Association of Louisiana-Mississippi
American Academy of Dermatology
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
Arthritis Foundation
Association of Women in Rheumatology
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Crohn's and Colitis Foundation
Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians
Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation
Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association
Louisiana Society of Interventional Pain Physicians
Louisiana State Medical Society
Mended Hearts
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
NAMI Louisiana, National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Infusion Center Association
National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Psoriasis Foundation
Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana
Rheumatology Nurses Society
Susan G. Komen