May 20, 2020

Louisiana House of Representatives
900 N. 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the undersigned coalition of patients and healthcare providers across the state of Louisiana, we ask for your support of HB 263 by Rep. Mike Huval, which passed the House Insurance Committee unanimously.

HB 263 seeks to update and clarify Louisiana’s long-standing law that provides an avenue for our doctors and other health professionals to advocate for their patients when asking an insurer/PBM to override coverage denials of through step therapy or “Fail First” protocols.

HB 263 1) ensures step therapy protocols are based on widely accepted medical and clinical guidelines, and 2) creates a clear and expeditious process for patients and providers to request a medical exception to step therapy requirements in certain clinically appropriate circumstances.

Step therapy policies require patients to try and fail one or more medications determined by their health insurer before being allowed to take the medicine recommended and prescribed by their provider.

A decade ago, Louisiana was the first state to address step therapy practices. Since that time, it has become clear that some provisions need updating.

We ask you to please vote in favor of HB 263 when it comes to the House floor and help patients get the right medicine 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
Association for Clinical Oncology
Arthritis Foundation
Association of Women in Rheumatology
Coalition of Hematology and Oncology Practice Managers
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation
Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians
Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Louisiana Dermatological Society
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
Pontchartrain Cancer Center
Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana
Rheumatology Nurses Society
Susan G. Komen