



## Arizonans *for* Step Therapy Reform

### ***IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**January 22, 2021**

### **SB1270: LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER LIMITING “TRY AND FAIL” REQUIREMENTS OF INSURANCE PROVIDERS**

**Patient Advocates Support Sen. Barto’s Effort to Minimize Barriers to the  
Doctor/Patient Relationship Imposed by “Step Therapy”**

**PHOENIX**, Ariz – Based on the number of documented patient stories, describing the sometimes debilitating delay in treatment due to a protocol called “Step Therapy”, Senator Nancy Barto (R-15), has presented a solution with SB1270. Patient advocacy groups around the state are supportive of SB1270, that limits the requirement for patients to “try and fail” medications, under the Step Therapy Protocol, before insurance coverage for provider prescribed medication is granted. This protocol creates a barrier between what the doctor, in their medical knowledge, believes best for treatment of the disease and the insurance company based on non-medical related procedures.

“Forcing a child to receive therapy that is known to likely fail, while allowing a patient to endure continued debilitating symptoms of disease is a difficult proposition for all involved,” said Dr. Brad Pasternak an expert in Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease at Phoenix Children’s Hospital.

Senator Barto introduced a similar bill last year that was met with bipartisan support and received a unanimous vote in committee, but due to the shortened legislative session after the COVID-19 restrictions, the bill was not able to be passed prior to the legislative adjournment. In the past year, the need for this bill has not diminished.

“This bill represents long-awaited relief for many Arizonans with chronic, complex and rare conditions, such as psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis,” said Kristen Stiffler, state government relations manager, National Psoriasis Foundation, and one of the lead members of the Arizonans for Step Therapy Reform. “Senator Barto’s leadership will result in a common-sense solution for patients and their health care providers. We thank her and look forward to the successful passage of SB1270.”

This year’s bill is co-sponsored by Senators Vince Leach (R-11), J.D. Mesnard (R-17), Tony Navarrete (D-30), and Tyler Pace (R-25) and in the House by Representative Regina Cobb R-5.

The bill aims to bring a restoration to the doctor-patient relationship and secure more efficient and effective treatments for those diagnosed with some of the most debilitating and life-altering diseases.

The bill has been assigned to Senate Health and Human Services Committee, no date for a hearing has been posted.

**ABOUT ARIZONANS FOR STEP THERAPY REFORM:** Dedicated to creating transparency, efficiency, and fairness through Step Therapy Reform and “fail first” policies, Arizonans for Step Therapy Reform is a coalition of over 40 patient advocate and medical groups, representing a multitude of Arizona citizens with chronic and often life-altering diseases.

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