



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2021

Contact:

Jen Daly

Gray Media

860.398.3916

daly@graymediagroup.com

NEBRASKA PATIENTS WILL NOW HAVE ACCESS TO THE RIGHT MEDICATION AT THE RIGHT TIME

[LB 337](#) signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts enacts guardrails around insurer practice known as ‘step therapy’

(Lincoln, Neb.) With the signature of Governor Pete Ricketts, patients across the state of Nebraska will soon have better access to the medications their health care provider prescribes, without undue interference from their insurance company.

Patient and health care providers from more than three dozen organizations praised Governor Ricketts for supporting efforts to reform the insurance industry practice of step therapy.

“Step therapy” or “fail first” requires patients to try and fail on one or more treatments other than the medication their provider ordered before covering the originally prescribed treatment. Delays in getting the proper care can lead to negative health outcomes and worsening of conditions in some patients.

Throughout the legislative process, LB337 saw overwhelming support. Senator Mark Kolterman, the bill sponsor had worked closely with key stakeholders—including members of the insurance industry, patient advocates and healthcare provider groups to find common ground to help ensure patients get their prescribed medication in a timely manner. The bill does not ban the use of step therapy but instead implements reasonable timelines and override protocols.

“As a long-time Nebraska resident, I’m thrilled to have supported step therapy reform legislation for patients and providers who have struggled with accessing the right medicine at the right time,” said Kristen Stiffler, state government relations manager for the National Psoriasis Foundation and leader of the Nebraskans for Step Therapy Reform Coalition. “From the beginning, Senator Mark Kolterman was

committed to getting this bill passed. With his leadership and that of Senator Matt Williams, along with the overwhelming support of the full legislature, Nebraskans will no longer have to fail first before accessing the medicine originally prescribed by their doctor.”

Insurers will need to be in compliance with the new law as of January 1, 2022.

LB 337 is supported by the following organizations:

AIM at Melanoma, Allergy & Asthma Network, Alliance for Patient Access, American Autoimmune and Related Disease Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American College of Cardiology-Nebraska Chapter, American College of Rheumatology, American Diabetes Association, Arthritis Foundation, Association for Clinical Oncology, Association of Women in Rheumatology, Bio Nebraska, Brain Injury – Nebraska, Cancer Support Community, Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations, Crohn's & Colitis, Epilepsy Foundation Nebraska/South Dakota, Global Healthy Living Foundation/Creaky Joints, International Cancer Advocacy Network, International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis, International Pain Foundation, Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Lupus Foundation of America, Mended Hearts, Mental Health America, Multiple Sclerosis Association of America, NAMI National, NAMI Nebraska, National Eczema Association, National Hemophilia Foundation, National Infusion Center Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for Rare Disorders, National Psoriasis Foundation, Nebraska Cancer Coalition, Nebraska Chapter - National Hemophilia Foundation, Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians, Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants, Nebraska Dermatology Society, Nebraska Medical Association, Nebraska Nurse Practitioners, Nebraska Oncology Society, Nebraska Pharmacists Association, Nebraska Rheumatology Society, Rheumatology Nurses Society, Susan G Komen Nebraska, The Arc of Nebraska

###