



Michele Guadalupe

State Director of Advocacy
Arthritis Foundation
1900 West 75th Street, Ste 200
Prairie Village, KS 66208

March 7, 2016

The Honorable Daniel Hawkins, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
Topeka, KS

Dear Chair Hawkins and members of the committee:

The Arthritis Foundation respectfully opposes SB 341, which will be heard on Thursday, March 10th during the House Health and Human Services Committee. SB 341 would allow step therapy for Medicaid patients.

The Arthritis Foundation is the Champion of Yes. Leading the fight for the arthritis community, the Arthritis Foundation helps conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections. We work on behalf of 497,000 people in Kansas (including 2,800 children) who live with the chronic pain of arthritis every day.

Our patients should have access to treatment decisions that are based on a patient's medical history and recognized clinical practice guidelines. Additionally, it is crucial that if they are stable on a medication, that they should be allowed to continue on the medication.

We are concerned that by allowing step therapy for Medicaid patients, the state is removing a patient protection and that people with arthritis will not be able to access the recommended treatment plan by their doctor. Physicians should have the final say when prescribing medications for their patients.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage Kansas legislators to oppose SB 341 and keep this patient protection for patients. If SB 341 is to move forward, we ask that patient protection amendments be added to the bill. If you have any questions, please contact me at 773-304-7290 or mguadalupe@arthritis.org.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Guadalupe".

Michele Guadalupe, MPH