



Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 341
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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Chairman Hawkins and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Action Network (ACS CAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 341, which allows for the use of Step Therapy protocols in the state Medicaid program. ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. As the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government.

ACS CAN opposes Senate Bill 341 in its current form. The bill as currently drafted does not define any circumstances under which a patient would be exempt from having to go through the step therapy process, and this could be harmful for cancer patients. While the use of step therapy is not inherently harmful, requiring stable patients or patients who have already failed on other medications to go through the step therapy process again can be detrimental to a patient's health outcome.

ACS CAN supports adding language to this bill that lists several conditions under which a patient should be exempt from a step therapy protocol, including: 1) when, based on the individual characteristics of the patient, the drug is likely to be ineffective or adversely affect the health of the individual); 2) the patient has already gone through the process and failed on the initial steps; and, 3) the patient is already stable on a medication that is subject to step therapy.

We would encourage the committee to add language requiring these exemptions or vote no on senate bill 341. If the department would like to see suggested language for these changes I've discussed, we are happy to follow up with that information. Thank you again for your time and consideration of this important public health issue.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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