

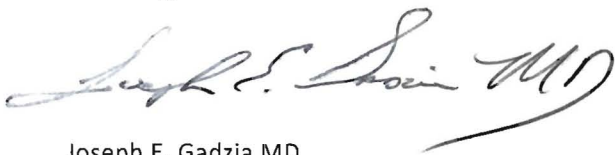
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January 23, 2016

Randi Walters  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Public Health  
State Capitol  
RE:Senate Bill NO. 341

Dear Randi Walters :

I am a practicing dermatologist here in Topeka, Kansas who has provided medical care to children on Medicaid in the surrounding area. In fact, as far as I know, I am the only dermatologist who is willing to see these children in our area currently for dermatologic care. I am an opponent of the bill that would allow insurance carriers to allow step edits of prescriptions. Currently, Medicaid is the worst paying insurer that I accept, which is why no other dermatologist will see these patients in my area. My motive for continuing to accept these patients, is purely philanthropic to help the children who may be in dire straits due to no fault of their own. If insurers are allowed to require step edits, each plan within the Medicaid system will have its own list of preferred medications. It will be impossible for me to memorize which prescription is first line with each carrier, resulting in more office staff time and overhead to deal with these patients, who we barely scrape by on now. If the amendment to allow insurers to require step edits on prescriptions I write for these patients passes, I will immediately terminate my Medicaid contract and will notify all of my Medicaid patients to go K.U. Med Center in Kansas City for their dermatologic care. Clearly, any cost savings incurred by the insurance carrier will be passed on to the patient in time off work, travel time, and travel costs. I will also inform them why I am doing this, and which senators voted for this amendment. I hope that if you care about patient access to care in Kansas for these patients, you will vote against this amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph E. Gadzia MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joseph E. Gadzia MD