

Help Us Solve
The Cruel Mystery
LUPUS
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
HEARTLAND CHAPTER

February 9, 2017

Chair Vicki Schmidt
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Topeka, KS

Re: SB 82 – Support

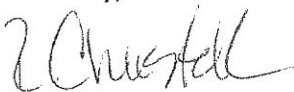
Dear Chair Schmidt and members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee:

The Lupus Foundation of America-Heartland Chapter requests your support for SB 82, which provides patient protection measures for step therapy. This is an important bill for the Lupus Foundation of America-Heartland Chapter community. There are approximately 50,000 people living with lupus within our chapter territory alone (the state of Missouri, five counties in eastern Kansas and southern Illinois). Lupus is different for each person, ranging from mild to life threatening and is not **curable**. Furthermore, lupus is very difficult to diagnose, taking an average of 6 years for an individual to receive a diagnosis. Any additional delays in treatment are not beneficial for an individual with a lupus diagnosis. Due to the nature of this illness, the following is needed for the opportunity at improved health outcomes:

- Doctors should be able to prescribe medicines they think are best for patients.
- Patients should have access to the right medicine at the right time.
- Let providers make treatment decisions on clinical considerations – not cost.

Please support SB 82! Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. I may be reached at rchustak@LFAheartland.org or 314-644-2222.

Sincerely,



Rosemary Chustak, MSW
Patient Services Manager