



Arthritis Foundation  
1900 W. 75<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 200  
Prairie Village, KS 66208

February 8, 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 Arthritis Foundation strongly encourages you to support SB 82, which provides standards for step therapy and “fail first protocols”.

The Arthritis Foundation is the Champion of Yes. Leading the fight for the arthritis community, the 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 over 497,000 people in Kansas who live with the chronic pain of arthritis every day.

This legislation does not ban the use of step therapy. SB 82 would increase the safety and effectiveness of step therapy protocols to ensure patients have access treatment decisions that are based on a patient’s medical history and recognized clinical practice guidelines. For people with arthritis, it is crucial that if they are stable on a medication, that they should be allowed to continue on that medication and not have to go through the step therapy process again.

We are proud to advocate on behalf of the over 497,000 men, women, and children with arthritis in Kansas – the number one cause of disability in the U.S. – and ask for your support for SB 82. Please contact me at [mguadalupe@arthritis.org](mailto:mguadalupe@arthritis.org) or (773-304-7290) with any questions.

Sincerely

*Michele Guadalupe*

Michele Guadalupe, MPH, State Director of Advocacy and Access

Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2/13/17

Attachment 11