

I SUPPORT BILL SB 82

February 8, 2017

To: Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee,

I am writing in response to the upcoming **Bill SB 82** regarding Step Therapy with prescription drugs in the state of Kansas.

I've been a practicing physician in the state of Kansas since 1986. I've seen many changes in our healthcare system over the years, both for the good and bad. Mostly over this time period a steady increase in control of spending and utilization of resources have been the focus of healthcare. Both have a significant economic impact and are based on actuarial or scientific research. However, the forced utilization of specific medications prior to another medication is typically without merit, and driven only by the insurance industry. Forcing a patient to trial one medication over the recommendation of their providing physician is an obstruction to the patient - physician relationship and trust. In essence, it is patient care - by - proxy from the medical directors of the insurance company without the burden of risk. This is directed control, and should not be confused with the medication Tier system developed by the insurance industry.

I support Bill SB 82 to eliminate the existing Step Edit mandates along with the confusion it produces, and the subtle control over the patient - physician relationship by the insurance industry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory A. Trempey, MD

Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2.7.17

Attachment 13