



February 12, 2018

Arthritis Foundation
1900 W. 75th St, Ste 200
Prairie Village, KS 66208

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

RE: SB304 – Support

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

The Arthritis Foundation strongly encourages you to support SB 304, 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 304 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 304. Please contact me at mguadalupe@arthritis.org or (773-304-7290) with any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Guadalupe".

Michele Guadalupe, MPH, Director of State Legislative Affairs