



Testimony in support of Senate Bill 82
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American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

February 13, 2017

Chairwoman Schmidt and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Action Network (ACS CAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 82, which establishes patient protections on the use of step therapy protocols in commercial insurance. ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. As the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government.

ACS CAN supports Senate Bill 82. While the use of step therapy is not inherently harmful, requiring stable patients or patients who have already failed on other medications to go through the step therapy process again can be detrimental to a patient's health outcome. This bill will ensure that step therapy protocols are based on widely-accepted clinical guidelines so that medicine – not cost – dictates treatment options. It also defines clear circumstances under which a patient would be exempt from having to go through the step therapy process, and this exception process for step therapy protocols is transparent and accessible to patients and health care providers. In order to protect patients facing cancer and other illnesses, we respectfully request your support for SB 82.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 3.13.17

Attachment 10