



**NATIONAL
Eczema
ASSOCIATION**

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February 8, 2017

The Honorable Senator Vicki Schmidt
Chairwoman, Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Kansas State Capitol, Room 441-E
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Schmidt:

I write to express the National Eczema Association's (NEA) support for SB 82.

NEA was founded in 1988 to improve the health and quality of life for individuals with eczema through research, support, and education. Eczema affects 31.6 million Americans, and at least 17.8 million have moderate to severe eczema or atopic dermatitis – the most chronic and prevalent form of eczema. Many who suffer from eczema are children. The prevalence of childhood eczema nationally is 10.7 percent, and as high as 18 percent in individual states.

NEA supports proposals that require health insurers' step therapy guidelines to make exceptions for situations in which patients previously tried a drug that failed to benefit the patient, the drug is expected to be ineffective based on the patient's medical history, a patient is stable on a current medication, the drug is contraindicated or would likely cause an adverse reaction, or the treatment is not in the best interest of the patient.

If enacted, SB 82 would create sensible statutory guidelines for insurers' step therapy protocols that are consistent with these principles. It would ensure that insurers' step therapy protocols are based on widely-accepted clinical guidelines favoring the health of patients – not cost – and that insurers' appeals processes for step therapy protocols are transparent and accessible to patients and health care providers.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this bill and respectfully ask for your aye vote.

Sincerely;

Tim Smith
Vice President, Advocacy and Access

CC: Members of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2/13/17

Attachment 8