

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Rep. Brenda Landwehr, Chair  
House Committee on Health & Human  
Services  
Kansas State Legislature  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Topeka, KS 66612

**Re: Opponent Testimony for House Bill 2157**

Dear Chair Landwehr and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Kansas House Bill 2557 (HB 2557). I represent Prime Therapeutics (Prime), a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) serving more than 30 million members nationally for its 18 non-profit Blue Cross and Blue Shield owners; employer groups; and government programs including the Federal Employee Program (FEP<sup>®</sup>), Medicare, and Medicaid.

Prime helps people get the medicine they need to feel better and live well by managing pharmacy benefits for health plans, employers, and government programs, including Medicare and Medicaid. Our company manages pharmacy claims for more than 30 million people nationally and offers clinical services for people with complex medical conditions. Our business model relies on transparency and advocating for simpler, lowest-net-cost pricing for drugs. Importantly, Prime is not focused on driving profit margins. To control costs, Prime's clients rely on our clinical expertise and drug management tools, such as step therapy.

As an initial matter, our step therapy processes ensure members get their medically necessary therapy in a timely manner. Where a member's preferred treatment is subject to step therapy, that member's medical provider can help them navigate those requirements to help them timely get their preferred medication if it is medically necessary. At its core, step therapy is a clinical program that helps get the medicine they need to feel better and live well. This bill would undermine that core clinical purpose and drive prescribers and patients towards higher cost therapies without any added benefit.

While we want to emphasize the value of step therapy programs, we are welcome to discussing alternative language that preserves step therapy. To be clear, our business practice is built on the fundamental purpose of getting people the medicine that they need to feel better and live well, with step therapy being a core component of that and thus must oppose this bill as currently written. We look forward to further discussions on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AS", written over a white background.

Alexander H. Sommer, Esq.  
Prime Therapeutics