



Global Healthy Living Foundation  
515 North Midland Avenue  
Upper Nyack, New York 10960 USA  
+1 845 348 0400  
+1 845 340 0210 fax  
www.ghlf.org

January 14, 2019

To the New Members of the Wisconsin State Senate,

Congratulations on becoming a member of the 2019-2020 Wisconsin Senate. Our organization – the Global Healthy Living Foundation (GHLF) – looks forward to working with you on policies that impact patients battling chronic and life-threatening diseases such as cancer, psoriatic and rheumatoid arthritis, epilepsy, migraine, stubbornly high cholesterol, osteoporosis, and mental health, among others.

GHLF is a 20-year-old 501(c)(3) patient organization representing chronically ill patients and their caregivers across the country. GHLF works to improve the quality of life for patients living with chronic disease by making sure their voices are heard and advocating nationally and in communities for improved access to care.

One access issue is our work to reform “Step Therapy/Fail First”, which is a policy that requires an insurer-favored drug in any class to be given to a patient first, even if a patient’s physician believes a different therapy is medically in the patient’s best interest. This policy represents the interests of insurance companies since it is often the drug they get the highest rebates on, but it can have a negative impact on treatment plans. Sometimes the favored drug works, and sometimes it doesn’t. The patient and physician should be able to decide together what drugs are prescribed. Although an insurer should have some say in treatment protocols because they often have the best population as well as individual health data, these decisions shouldn’t be dictated by them.

For Wisconsin children and adults living with chronic and life-threatening diseases, step therapy protocols limit a health care provider’s ability to tailor care to individual patient needs. Blanket one-size-fits-all health plans that require all patients, no matter their medical history or individual characteristics, to try and fail multiple drugs before being able to try the originally prescribed drug can cause long delays in getting the patient stabilized on therapy, leading to poorer health outcomes and higher system costs. At GHLF we believe patients should succeed first, and physicians most often know how to make this happen.

**The measure, LRB-0350/1, that is being championed by State Representatives John Nygren and Loren Oldenburg and State Senators Alberta Darling and Andre Jacque, preserves physician judgment. While it does not ban step therapy it puts common sense guardrails in place to enable health care providers and patients to override a health plan’s step therapy protocols in certain circumstances when it is medically appropriate for a patient. GHLF endorses this legislation.**

As we look to the new state legislative session, we hope you will support and co-sponsor LRB-0350/1. To sign up as a co-sponsor, please contact Chris Borgerding in Rep. Nygren's office at 6-2343 or Rachel Keith in Senator Darling's office at 6-5830 by Friday, January 25 at 5 PM.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this legislation and would be pleased to provide any further information that you may require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Greenblatt', written in a cursive style.

Corey Greenblatt  
Manager, Policy and Advocacy  
Global Healthy Living Foundation

