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January 31<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Senator Ed Charbonneau, Chairman  
Health and Provider Services Committee  
Indiana State Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**Re: SB 585 – Relating to Non-Medical Switching – Support**

Dear Chairman Charbonneau,

I am writing to express the Global Healthy Living Foundation's (GHLF) support of SB 585, and to ask for your support for SB 585, which would protect Indiana patients from non-medical switching. 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 for improved access to care at the community level. Our patients suffer from chronic conditions including arthritis, psoriasis, gastrointestinal disease, cardiovascular disease and migraine.

Non-medical switching occurs when a pharmacy benefit manager or health plan forces a stable enrollee to switch from their currently effective medication to an alternative by moving the drug to a more restrictive formulary tier, increasing the patient's out-of-pocket costs for the drug, or by removing the medication from their formulary.

The practice of non-medical switching is irresponsible and endangers patients' health by disrupting their continuity of care. We represent patients with complex conditions that require highly individualized care. Stabilizing these conditions is a process that can take months or even years of trial and error. The resulting course of treatment must carefully balance each patient's unique medical history, disease environment, and drug interactions.

Due to the complexity of successfully managing all of these interacting variables, switching to an alternative therapy could be intolerable for the patient and trigger an adverse event. This exposes patients to serious health consequences such as: irreversible disease progression, returning symptoms and hospitalization, loss of effectiveness of the original therapy, and exacerbation of co-morbid conditions. This results in bad outcomes both for patients, as well as well as the medical industry at large.

Non-medical switching by pharmacy benefit managers and health plans are one size fits all policies that disrupt patients' carefully achieved equilibrium and erodes physicians' ability to provide patients care that is consistent with best practices and their medical expertise. It cannot be assumed that what works for one enrollee will work for each enrollee. Treatment decisions of this magnitude must remain between patients and their providers, rather than being put into the

hands of health plans and pharmacy benefit managers who are not licensed to practice medicine. For these reasons we respectfully request your support of SB 585, which protects Indiana patients from being financially coerced into compromising their own health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Greenblatt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Corey Greenblatt  
Manager, Policy and Advocacy  
Global Healthy Living Foundation

