The Honorable Virginia Foxx Chairwoman Committee on Education and the Workforce Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Good
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health, Employment,
Labor, and Pension
Committee on Education and the Workforce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott Ranking Member Committee on Education and the Workforce Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health, Employment,
Labor, and Pensions
Committee on Education and the Workforce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member Scott, Chairman Good, and Ranking Member DeSaulnier,

Thank you for holding the hearing entitled *ERISA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: The Path to Higher Quality, Lower Cost, Health Care* to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). As the Committee considers legislation to bolster and improve ERISA, the below 107 patient and provider organizations urge you to mark up and advance HR 2630, the Safe Step Act.

Insurance-mandated step therapy is a utilization management protocol that requires patients to try and fail on one or more insurer-preferred treatments before the plan will cover the treatment initially selected by the patient and their provider. When medically inappropriate, step therapy delays patient access to needed treatments and can lead to severe or irreversible health consequences. HR 2630, the Safe Step Act, would ensure that employer plans, and the pharmacy benefit managers that support them, offer a timely step therapy exceptions process for patients and their providers.

The Safe Step Act would complement the pharmacy benefit manager transparency provisions under consideration by the Committee by improving patient access to needed care. The bill would also update ERISA in line with medical practice standards and Medicare. For more information on how the Safe Step Act pertains to ERISA, please see the <u>Safe Step Act Ad Hoc Coalition's response to the Committee's request for information</u>.

Thank you for your consideration of HR 2630, the Safe Step Act. We look forward to working closely with the Committee to help patients access needed care and maintain their work productivity. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Sarah Buchanan, National Psoriasis Foundation, at sbuchanan@psoriasis.org.

Sincerely,

**ADAP Advocacy** 

**AiArthritis** 

Aimed Alliance

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy

Alliance for Patient Access

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention

Alpha-1 Foundation

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Academy of Neurology

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Gastroenterology

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American Gastroenterological Association

American Headache Society

American Medical Women's Association

American Migraine Foundation

American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

Arizona Prostate Cancer Coalition

**Arthritis Foundation** 

Association for Clinical Oncology

Association of Black Cardiologists

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

**Autoimmune Association** 

**Beyond Celiac** 

Biomarker Collaborative

California Chronic Care Coalition

**Cancer Support Community** 

Caregiver Action Network

Celiac Disease Foundation

Child Neurology Foundation

Chronic Care Policy Alliance

**Chronic Disease Coalition** 

Chronic Migraine Awareness, Inc.

Coalition of Hematology and Oncology Practices

Coalition of Skin Diseases

Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations

Community Liver Alliance

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Cure SMA

CURED Nfp (Campaign Urging Research for Eosinophilic Diseases)

Danielle Byron Henry Migraine Foundation

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

**Derma Care Access Network** 

Dup15q Alliance

**Epilepsy Alliance America** 

**Epilepsy Foundation** 

**EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases** 

Exon 20 Group

**Facial Pain Association** 

**Families for Depression Awareness** 

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research

Georgia AIDS Coalition

Global Healthy Living Foundation

HealthyWomen

Hemophilia Federation of America

**HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute** 

**Hydrocephalus Association** 

**IBDMoms** 

ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network

Infusion Access Foundation

Infusion Providers Alliance

International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD)

International Myeloma Foundation

International Pain Foundation

Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation

**LUNGevity Foundation** 

Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.

Mental Health America

**MET Crusaders** 

Migraine At Work

Miles for Migraine

National Alliance on Mental Illness

**National Ataxia Foundation** 

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National Eczema Association

National Headache Foundation

National Health Council

National Hispanic Health Foundation

**National Infusion Center Association** 

National Organization for Rare Disorders

**National Psoriasis Foundation** 

Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative

North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc.

Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health

Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation

PD-L1 Amplifieds

Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology

PlusInc

**Prevent Blindness** 

**Pulmonary Hypertension Association** 

Rheumatology Association of Minnesota and the Dakotas

**Rheumatology Nurses Society** 

Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants (SDPA)

Spondylitis Association of America

Susan G. Komen

The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum

The Mended Hearts, Inc.

Tourette Association of America

TSC Alliance

U.S. Pain Foundation

United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.

**ZERO Prostate Cancer**