

Patients Need the Right Medicine at the Right Time.



Dear Florida Legislator:

We, the signed patient, healthcare professional and business organizations, are writing to express our strong support to strengthen the patient protections and appeals processes currently in Florida statute. On behalf of Florida's most vulnerable citizens, we are seeking your leadership and legislative action to address concerns in the areas of:

- ✓ streamlining step therapy and fail first protocols;
- ✓ simplified prior authorization;
- ✓ protection against discriminatory plan designs;
- ✓ providing continuity of care for stable patients;
- ✓ and, offering an appeals process for medical exceptions.

Healthcare professionals have the expertise to know what is best for patients and must have access to a full range of therapeutic options to use as they see fit for their patients. They should not have to jump through burdensome bureaucratic hoops to secure the most appropriate therapy. Ultimately, healthcare professionals, not bureaucrats, should make the determination of the best course of treatment and medications for a patient. We need to ensure Florida's patients are receiving the *right medicine at the right time*.

We seek your assistance in protecting patient access to needed medicines. Access restrictions can prohibit a provider from prescribing what they believe is the best therapy option for a patient. It is imperative certain access protections be implemented. Protections such as continuity of care, adequate product selection, and ensuring a clear and simple path for healthcare professionals to navigate the prior authorization process are essential to patient health. Patients already face many challenges in remaining compliant with their medication regimens. Without these protections, unnecessary barriers to needed drug therapies could deter patients from adhering to their therapeutic regimens.

Respectfully, we ask that you and your fellow members of the Florida House and Senate implement these critical recommendations this legislative session to ensure that all Floridians have access to *the right medicine at the right time*.

Sincerely,

Alpha-1 Foundation
Alzheimer's & Dementia Resource Center
American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology, Florida Chapter
American College of Physicians, Florida Chapter
American Lung Association in Florida
Arthritis Foundation Southeast

Hispanic Health Initiatives
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lung Transplant Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association
Lupus Foundation of Florida
Lupus Research Institute
Manatee County Medical Society





BioFlorida
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Citrus Council, National Kidney Foundation of Florida
Collier County Medical Society
Community Health Charities of Florida
COPD Foundation
Elder Care Advocacy of Florida
Epilepsy Association of Central Florida
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida
Florida Academy of Physicians Assistants
Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society
Florida Breast Cancer Foundation
Florida CHAIN
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
Florida Hemophilia Association
Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network
Florida Legal Services Inc.
Florida Medical Association
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Florida Partners in Crisis
Florida Podiatric Medical Association
Florida Psychiatric Society
Florida Public Health Association
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology
Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
HEALS of the South
Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida
Hispanic CREO

Medicare Rx Access Network of Florida
Mended Hearts of Orlando-Central Florida
Mental Health Association of Central Florida, Inc.
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
NAMI Florida
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
Oncology Managers of Florida
Palm Beach Medical Society
Parkinson's Action Network
Partnership for Prescription Assistance Florida
Patient Access for Florida
PhRMA
Pinellas County Medical Association
SaludUSA
Sickle Cell Disease Association of Florida
Sickle Cell Foundation
Susan G. Komen Central Florida Affiliate
Susan G. Komen Miami/Ft. Lauderdale Affiliate
Susan G. Komen North Florida Affiliate
Susan G. Komen South Florida Affiliate
Susan G. Komen Southwest Florida
Susan G. Komen Suncoast Affiliate
Tampa Bay Black Nurses Association
The AIDS Institute
The Key Clubhouse
U.S. Pain Foundation
United Partners for Human Services
US Oncology

