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Chair Representative Rachel Prusak
Vice-Chair Representative Cedric Hayden
Vice-Chair Representative Andrea Salinas
House Committee on Health Care

March 1, 2021

Dear Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Salinas, and members of the House Committee on Health Care –

We would like to show our support of House Bill 2517. Utilization management practices, such as prior authorization and step therapy are important tools to contain costs and ensure quality of care. However, they can often result in delayed treatment, abandonment of treatment, and higher administrative burdens.

House Bill 2517 seeks to ensure that utilization management protocols are fair, transparent, and evidence-based and to ensure decisions are made to best support the health needs of the patient. The key concerns addressed by HB2517 are to prevent treatment delays and treatment abandonment, which is of primary concern to us, as we advocate for patients across Oregon in all stages of the breast cancer continuum of care.

This bill improves the efficiency of this process to support better patient outcomes, by:

- Providing reasonable exceptions to step therapy requirements, keeping the decision between the patient and healthcare provider on which treatment protocols are best for their situation. The therapies used for breast cancer treatment are evolving rapidly, as research finds new ways of keeping the disease at bay. Step therapy often requires the most affordable therapy be utilized before a new, or more expensive, and perhaps more effective treatment will be authorized by an insurance company, even when a physician believes the newer form of treatment will be the most effective. We support actions that make it easier for a physician to prescribe a metastatic breast cancer patient with a novel therapy that could stabilize their disease and improve their quality of life.
- Reducing the administrative burden on patients and healthcare providers. Allowing patients to maintain 12-month prior authorization for drugs used to treat chronic conditions. By removing the requirement to continually seek prior authorization for the same drug, there will be less disruption in the treatment process for the patient. In some cases, disruptions can result in significant loss of health or even life. This is especially relevant for women and men living with metastatic breast cancer, to whom access to these drug therapies could, quite literally, mean the difference between living with or dying from the disease.
- Improving transparency and navigation of administrative processes.

For these reasons, Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington is proud to support HB2517, and we respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

Cindy Fletcher, MBA
Director of Programs