

Rep. Nygren, Sen. Darling: Welcome step therapy coalition

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Madison-State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) and Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), authors of Wisconsin's Step Therapy Legislation released the following statement:

"Today we are happy to host over 60 members of the Wisconsin Step Therapy Coalition for the Advocacy Day in Madison. Their stories and passion are the reason we're fighting so hard for this bipartisan bill. Today is just a reminder of the impact this reform will have for citizens across Wisconsin."

"In Wisconsin, patients often have to "fail" a drug or treatment plan before they can access the medicine their doctor prescribed. This measure, known as "step therapy," is meant to reduce costs by requiring patients to try cheaper alternatives first. Unfortunately, step therapy often ignores a patient's medical history and creates red tape that blocks patients from the best healthcare for them."

"Patients are required to go through step therapy even if they already tried the cheaper drug under a different health plan or when the cheaper alternative interferes with other medications they are currently using. While insurers often have an exemption process from step therapy protocols, it can be unclear and results in unnecessary back and forth between the patient, doctor, and insurance company; all of which delays care."

"We'd like to thank all those who shared their stories in meetings with legislators today. Together, we will make sure Wisconsin citizens get the right care at the right time."

Recent new stories share the personal impacts step therapy protocols can have on Wisconsin residents:

https://madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/election-matters/wisconsin-lawmakers-look-to-improve-patient-outcomes-with-change-to/article_9420b663-0fd3-5fb7-af4d-a65d17d62eff.html

<https://www.wpr.org/medication-denied-wisconsin-bill-would-make-insurance-appeals-easier>