



North Dakota Assembly
House Industry, Business & Labor Committee
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

January 15th, 2025

Re: Support for HB 1216

Dear Committee Members,

Representing the interests of infusion therapy patients in the state, the Infusion Access Foundation extends its gratitude for your service and dedication to the people of North Dakota and strongly encourages your support for HB 1216 at the January 27th House Industry, Business and Labor Committee hearing.

The Infusion Access Foundation is a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to protecting access to infusions and injections. We support patients across all disease states and advocate for expanding access to the therapies that help patients live their best, healthiest lives. In conjunction with our grassroots advocacy work, we advocate for individual patients who face significant barriers to care.

Patients facing complex, rare, or chronic diseases often require infused or injectable medications when conventional therapies are ineffective. These treatments offer hope and a pathway to stability for individuals managing conditions such as autoimmune diseases, yet the journey to accessing them is often fraught with unnecessary barriers.

Step therapy, or "fail first" policies, force patients to try and fail medications before being allowed access to the treatment originally prescribed by their doctor. These policies not only delay the start of effective treatment but also subject patients to prolonged periods of suffering, preventable disease progression, and increased clinical risk. For many, this means enduring years of ineffective care before finally receiving the medication that can truly make a difference in their health and quality of life.

When insurers dictate treatment protocols, they undermine the vital decision-making process between patients and their healthcare providers. These decisions should be based on widely accepted clinical guidelines and the individual needs of each patient,



not cost-saving measures imposed by insurance companies. Step therapy policies that deviate from evidence-based practices can exacerbate patients' conditions, increase their reliance on emergency care, and ultimately raise healthcare costs.

In passing HB 1216, North Dakota can take a critical step toward putting medical decisions back where they belong: in the hands of patients and their trusted healthcare providers. This legislation would help ensure that patients receive timely, appropriate, and effective care while reducing the emotional and physical toll of unnecessary treatment delays.

On behalf of the countless patients who face chronic and complex conditions every day, we sincerely request your support for HB 1216 during the January 27th House Industry, Business and Labor Committee hearing. Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to the well-being of North Dakota residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Alicia B".

Alicia Barron, LGSW
Executive Director
Infusion Access Foundation