



## Minnesota Psychiatric Society

April 10, 2018

Rep. Kelly Fenton  
525 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Paul Utke  
3403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Utke and Rep. Fenton,

The Minnesota Psychiatric Society (MPS) is writing to support the work you have done this year on Step Therapy reform and to thank you for chief authoring HF3196/SF2897.

The Minnesota Psychiatric Society (MPS) is a District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association. We represent 450+ psychiatric physicians, MN psychiatrists in training and in practice, in all subspecialties from child to geriatrics, and in practice settings from solo offices to hospitals, academia, integrated care, prisons, and more.

Patients in Minnesota routinely face insurance barriers to access health care but in particular mental health services. One of the worst barriers is step therapy. With step therapy, insurance companies force patients to fail first with the wrong treatment. This policy can have devastating consequences for patients, especially those with mental health conditions, while also driving up health care costs.

Your proposed legislation improves the step therapy process by allowing providers to request an exception for patients with chronic conditions such as bi-polar disorder, clinical depression and schizophrenia. As physicians, we have seen how requirements such as step therapy or "fail first" hurt our patients by forcing them to fail on medications that we know won't work as well.

Thank you again for your hard work on moving this legislation forward this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Goering".

Paul Goering, MD  
President