



Senate Bill S.652 — 118th Congress (2023-2024)

“This bill requires a group health plan to establish an exception to medication step-therapy protocol in specified cases. A medication step-therapy protocol establishes a specific sequence in which prescription drugs are covered by a group health plan or a health insurance issuer.

A request for such an exception to the protocol must be granted if (1) an otherwise required treatment has been ineffective, (2) such treatment is expected to be ineffective and delaying effective treatment would lead to irreversible consequences, (3) such treatment will cause or is likely to cause an adverse reaction to the individual, (4) such treatment is expected to prevent the individual from performing daily activities or occupational responsibilities, (5) the individual is stable based on the prescription drugs already selected, or (6) there are other circumstances as determined by the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

The bill requires a group health plan to implement and make readily available a clear process for an individual to request an exception to the protocol, including required information and criteria for granting an exception. The bill further specifies timelines under which plans must respond to such requests.” - Congress.gov

Why is this bill important to those with HypoPARathyroidism? With the prospect of new medications coming to market in the near future for our disease we need to change the way insurance pays or reviews paying for medication now more than ever.

If you have never heard of “Step Therapy” and want to know more here is a simple but great explanation.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zg6mjEnUMv0>

If you are interested in helping, get this bill passed please consider writing a letter to your senator. If you need help doing this, check out our grassroots toolkit here <https://www.hypopara.org/how-to-help/advocacy-campaigns> . Need to find out who your senators are and how to reach them go here <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>