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New York State

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Memo of Support

To: Members of the NYS Assembly and Senate Insurance, Health and Mental Health Committees

Re: S-3419A/A-2834A

Decisions on a person's medical care should be made by that person and his or her doctor, based on what is believed to be most appropriate in advancing his or her recovery. Someone paying for medical insurance should expect his or her coverage to honor and subsidize the medication the doctor has prescribed. However, too often decisions on what medications to cover are based on profit margins and not sound medical recommendations.

Medication plays a vital role to the treatment and recovery from psychiatric disorders. It is imperative that people living with a mental illness have access to the medications their doctors believe are most appropriate for them. However, too often the provider will only cover less expansive medication options, forcing the patient to have to fail-first on the approved medication, before being able to "step-up" to the medication the doctor originally prescribed.

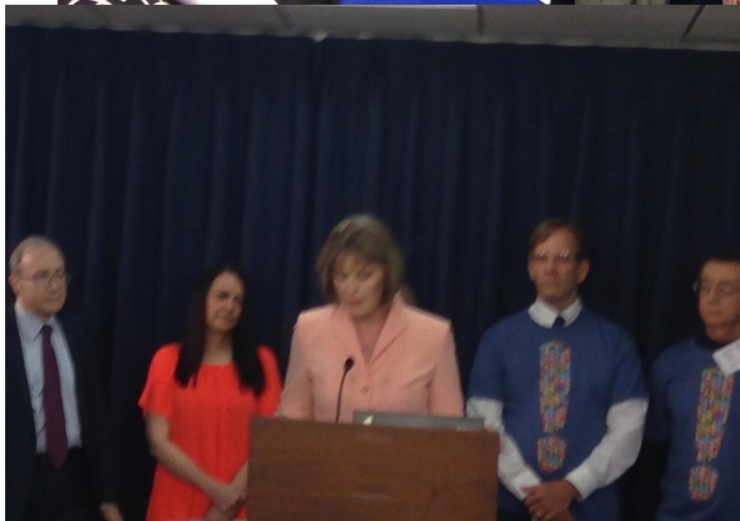
The National Alliance on Mental Illness-New York State (NAMI-NYS) vehemently opposes this dangerous practice, which is why we strongly endorse S-3419A/A-2834A, which would regulate the practice of Step Therapy.

Medications that treat psychiatric disorders are not interchangeable and it should be up to a doctor and a patient to decide what medication is appropriate. Eliminating Prescriber Prevails is a dangerous proposition, as not providing people living with a mental illness with the most appropriate medication can lead to more emergency room visits as well as possible interactions with the criminal justice system, these preventable outcomes would have a greater financial consequence than proactively allowing a trained medical professional to decide what medication is proper.

NAMI-NYS urges you to support S-3419A/A-2834A. For more information please contact NAMI-NYS at 518-462-2000.

NAMI-NYS Active at Step Therapy Advocacy Day

Leading two advocacy teams and participating in the press conference with Senator Catharine Nolan



DON'T FAIL US

#steptherapy
#NoFailMay

PASS S.3419-B (Young)/A.2834-B (Titone) to protect Patient Access to Needed Medications

For more information, go to: www.steptherapyinfo.com

Organizations Supporting A.2834-B / S.3419-B

Alliance for Patient Access*American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Pain Management*American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association
American Academy of Rheumatology*American College of Rheumatology
American Behcet's Disease Association*Arthritis Foundation*Association for Hispanic Mental Health Professionals
National Alliance for Autism Research*National Alliance for Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder*National Alliance for Transgender Equality*National Alliance for Transgender Equality*National Alliance for Transgender Equality