



Good Morning,

My name is Paul Gileno and I am President and Founder of US Pain Foundation, which is based in Middletown, Connecticut. I am also a CT resident living with pain. We roughly have 35,000 members throughout the country – more than 1,000 from Connecticut. We are in direct contact with patients each day and the biggest complaint is getting the relief they need in a timely and efficient manner. I wanted to take this opportunity to ask you to support the passage of SB 857: An Act Concerning the Use of Step Therapy for and Off-Label Prescribing of Prescription Drugs.

SB 857 will protect patients from being required to take a medication not indicated for their condition; and from being forced to take a drug they have previously failed. The bill will also protect healthcare providers from assuming the legal risks of off-label prescribing when it is not their decision; and from assuming the legal risks of exposing their patient to a drug previously found to be ineffective or to cause side-effects. Unfortunately, patients must bear the health risks of taking drugs not recommended by their healthcare provider; and the financial risks of additional co-pays and office visits as they move through the failure process.

The US Pain Foundation was recently successful in advocating for passage of a step therapy for pain management bill in Connecticut which was signed into law in 2011 and went into effect January 2012. We are already seeing the positive effects of this bill in pain patients. People with pain are getting the appropriate medications their doctors feel are best, which is resulting in lower costs to the health care system.

U.S. Pain Foundation advocates for regulatory policies that put prescribing power back in the hands of physicians in charge of a patient's care. It is essential that patients receive the drug treatment prescribed by their physicians and do not suffer needless consequences due to step therapy policies. Unfortunately, in too many cases, patients are forced to: pay cost-sharing for the first steps of therapy and for additional medical visits; suffer physically because effective treatment is delayed; and tolerate side effects from inadequate medicines.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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