

**Testimony Presented to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
of the Connecticut General Assembly**

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**SB 857—An Act Concerning the Use of Step Therapy For and Off-Label Prescribing of  
Prescription Drugs**

**SB 861—An Act Concerning the Modernization of Certain Medical Forms**

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, Senator Kelly, Representative Sampson and other members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

I'm Paul Pescatello, President of Connecticut United for Research Excellence—CURE.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 857—An Act Concerning the Use of Step Therapy.

I will also make some quick comments about Senate Bill 861—An Act Concerning the Modernization of Medical Forms.

CURE's mission is to represent and foster the growth of Connecticut life sciences research and life sciences technology transfer.

Our most important job is to support the growth of the cluster of biotechnology and biopharma companies that we and all of you in the General Assembly have worked so hard to build.

Part of our mission, and part of that job, is to ensure that when the hard won fruits of biopharma research manifest themselves in new medicines, patients needing those medicines are able to get them.

Senate Bills 857 and 861 do just that.

Unregulated step therapy is not in the best interest of patients or the healthcare system. It undermines providers' medical judgment and the relationship between healthcare providers and patients.

Step therapy is often driven by cost considerations rather than appropriate biopharmaceutical and patient care, and may subject patients to unnecessary risk.

We believe that a provider's prescribing decision is the outcome of a careful and deliberate process between the provider and his or her patient, based on their judgment as to how best to prevent, treat or cure a disease or medical condition.

This process requires the evaluation of a specific individual's condition, needs and a variety of scientific data to choose the individualized course of therapy that is right for the patient.

SB 857 protects the relationship between providers and patients.

It protects patients from being required to take a medication not indicated for their condition as well as from being subjected to taking a medicine they have already taken and which has failed to be efficacious.

SB 861, which would put in place a uniform and electronically accessible system for prior authorizations, is similarly about supporting what's in the patient's interest.

SB 861 would bring prior authorizations into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, reduce paperwork, increase efficiency and make the prior authorization process far more transparent than it is today.

I will close today by noting that we've done a great deal in Connecticut to build and nurture a biotech industry.

We've done that first and foremost for patients—for the treatments and cures.

We've also done it for the economic value of the biopharma industry in terms of the jobs and the quality of jobs it creates in Connecticut.

As you have heard me say many times, no other industry has as great an economic ripple effect across the Connecticut economy as biopharma.

Biopharma companies themselves provide something in short supply these days: career—not just job—opportunities in an industry that pays well, provides benefits and is unlikely to leave American shores.

There is, however, much competition among the states for this industry.

At every chance, Connecticut should send a message that cutting edge new medicine research and development is appreciated here, and that we will not allow convoluted mechanisms and processes to persist or be created to thwart patients from receiving the best medicines available for what afflicts them.

Thank you.