



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**REPRESENTATIVE LINDA A. ORANGE**  
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**MEMBER**  
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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

March 13, 2014

Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Room 2800, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 394, An Act Concerning Requirements for Insurers' Use of Step Therapy.

I have heard from constituents that they sometimes have to take prescriptions that are not what their doctor has prescribed but what the insurer requires in order to get coverage and payment from their plan. If that drug fails to be effective, the patient may be able to then get coverage for the drug originally prescribed by his or her physician. Patients may be required to fail repeatedly on the same drug(s) over any length of time before this happens under current law.

This bill establishes a simple and necessary override process that, in cases of medical necessity, a physician may override an insurer's step protocol. The bill is similar to legislation that we passed last year for Medicaid beneficiaries and would apply a similar override process for privately insured individuals. I believe the bill strikes a reasonable and balanced approach that will allow step therapy to better realize its cost-savings goals and to do so without causing patient harm.

I urge this committee to act favorably on SB 294.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Orange".

Linda Orange  
Deputy Speaker, 48<sup>th</sup> District