

SB 418

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of this very important bill, SB 418.

As a patient with Multiple Sclerosis and NMO, I have been on medication that has improved the quality of my life, but has terrible short and long term side effects that can eventually lead to life threatening conditions or illnesses. I am prevented from taking other MS medications with lesser side effects due to the presence of antibodies in my system that would put me at risk of contracting a deadly brain virus if I were to take them.

My Neurologist and Neuro Ophthalmologist have tried on numerous occasions to get me on a medication that has in many cases been shown to be extremely effective in reducing the symptoms of both MS and NMO, with little side effects. Unfortunately, my insurance company (Anthem) considers this medication "off label" for Multiple Sclerosis, and on every attempt, rejected my Doctor's request for this drug. They feel that it is not "medically necessary" for a patient such as myself to receive it.

I have been seeing my Neurologist for 10 years, and he is clearly the medical expert with the most comprehensive knowledge of my condition. It is frustrating that the decision as to which medications I am able to receive has been taken out of his hands and given to physicians who work for the insurance company, who have never met with, examined, or treated me. It would be a relief to see this bill passed, which would allow my physician to prescribe the best medication for myself and others like me.

Thank You,

Kenneth Orr