Dear Florida legislator:

We, the signed patient, healthcare professional and business organizations, are writing to express our strong support to expand and strengthen the patient protections currently in Florida statute. On behalf of Florida’s most vulnerable citizens, we are seeking your leadership and legislative action to address concerns in the areas of:

- continuity of care,
- formulary requirements,
- access to medicines,
- streamline prior authorization,
- step therapy/fail first restrictions.

Healthcare professionals have the expertise to know what is best for patients and must have access to a full range of therapeutic options to use as they see fit for their patients. They should not be burdened with administrative hoops to jump through to secure the most appropriate therapy. Ultimately, healthcare professionals, not bureaucrats, should make the determination of the best course of treatment and medications for a patient.

We seek your assistance in protecting patient access to needed medicines. Access restrictions can prohibit a provider from prescribing what they believe is the best therapy option for a patient. It is imperative certain access protections be implemented. Protections such as continuity of care, adequate product selection, and ensuring a clear and simple path for healthcare professionals to
navigate the prior authorization process are essential to patient health. Patients already face many challenges in remaining compliant with their medication regimens. Without these protections, unnecessary barriers to needed drug therapies could deter patients from adhering to their therapeutic regimens.

Respectfully, we ask that you and your fellow members of the Florida House and Senate implement these critical recommendations this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Specialties
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
Alzheimer’s & Dementia Resource Center
American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology, Florida Chapter
American College of Physicians, Florida Chapter
American Lung Association in Florida
American Society of Abdominal Surgeons
Bays Medical Society
BioFlorida
Broward County Medical Association
Budd Bell's Clearinghouse on Human Services
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network
Charlotte County Medical Society
Collier County Medical Society
Community Health Charities of Florida
COPD Foundation
Dade County Medical Association
Elder Care Advocacy of Florida
Epilepsy Association of Central Florida
Epilepsy Association of the Big Bend
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida
Escambia County Medical Society, Inc.
Florida Academy of Family Physicians
Florida Academy of Physicians Assistants
Florida Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology Society
Florida Breast Cancer Foundation
Florida Cancer Affiliates
Florida CHAIN
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics
Florida College of Emergency Physicians
Florida Hemophilia Association
Florida HIV/AIDS Advocacy Network
Florida Legal Services Inc.
Florida Medical Association
Florida Medical Directors Association
Florida Nurse Practitioner Network
Florida Nurses Association
Florida Orthopaedic Society
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Florida Partners in Crisis
Florida Physical Therapy Association
Florida Podiatric Medical Association
Florida Psychiatric Society
Florida Radiological Society
Florida Sleep Medicine Society
Florida Society of Addiction Medicine
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology
Florida Society of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians
Florida Society of Nephrology
Florida Society of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery
Florida Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons
Florida Society of Rheumatology
Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
HEALS of the South
Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida
Highlands County Medical Society
Hillsborough County Medical Association, Inc.
Hispanic CREO
Indian River County Medical Society
Lake Sumter Medical Society
Lee County Medical Society
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lupus Foundation of Florida
Lupus Research Institute
Manatee County Medical Society
Medicare Rx Access Network of Florida
Mended Hearts, Inc.
Miami Chapter, Black Nurses Association
Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
NAMI Florida
Nassau County Medical Society
National Kidney Foundation of Florida
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Okaloosa County Medical Society
Oncology & Radiation Associates
Oncology Managers of Florida
Palm Beach Medical Society
Partnership for Prescription Assistance Florida
Patient Access for Florida
PhRMA
Pinellas County Medical Association
Polk County Medical Association
SaludUSA
Sarasota County Medical Society
Sickle Cell Foundation
South Florida Oncology Hematology
The AIDS Institute
The Key Clubhouse of South Florida
U.S. Pain Foundation
US Oncology
Volusia County Medical Society