

Testimony on HB 0970 - Favorable

HB 0970 - Health Insurance – Prohibition on Step Therapy or First-Fail Protocols

Health and Government Operations Committee

February 27, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Joseline Pena-Melynk, Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Kim Hayes offers a **favorable** testimony in support of **HB 0970 – Health Insurance – Prohibition on Step Therapy or First-Fail Protocols**

Hello, I'm a nearly 3-year resident of Frederick in Frederick County. My teen has Type 1 Diabetes, she was diagnosed in 2020. We first tried the 'preferred' (by the health insurance company) long-term medication, Lantis. She developed an angry rash and we quickly switched to Tresiba, which was not preferred/in network. Every single year, I have to go through a time-consuming process of re-applying to use this medication. Why? We already know she is reactive to the preferred insulin. We shouldn't need to go through this process year after year. On one occasion, I have even received push back from the insurance rep. I'm not going to risk my child's health and a potentially worse reaction.

Bottom line, if a doctor and patient know the preferred medication is not appropriate, putting the financial interests of an insurance company is misguided and in my opinion, unethical.

I (Kim Hayes) urge the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 0970.