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## **Legislators look to Apply Limits to the Practice of Step Therapy**

**Tallahassee, Fla. - Representative Matt Willhite (D-Wellington)** filed legislation related to the practice of step-therapy. For people who take prescription drugs to treat medical conditions, step-therapy is the practice of prescribing less expensive medical treatment before they can "step" to a more expensive treatment or medication. [HB 459](#) and its Senate companion, [SB 730](#), by **Senator Gayle Harrell (R- Stuart)** aims to narrow in on and revise some of the protocols and circumstances in which step therapy is used.

This legislation requires that a health insurer shall publish on its website, and provide in writing, a procedure to request a protocol exemption. The bill also lays out the conditions under which the protocol exemption must be granted and requires a detailed written explanation if the exemption request is denied. Finally, the legislation lays out specific timelines that must be followed to grant or deny an exemption for urgent and non-urgent care situations.

“It is not fair that a patient and their doctor do not get the first say in the type of care a patient receives; they know best what the patient needs, not an insurance company,” said **Representative Willhite**. “Often, step therapy's practice creates more ongoing pain and delays the healing process when the ultimate goal should be the patient's health.”

After filing this legislation, **Senator Harrell** issued the following statement:

“The goal of this legislation is to make sure patients get the most effective treatment or medication as soon as possible and there is transparency in the process when insurance companies require the use of step-therapy. The health of the patient must be the priority.”

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