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**Sen. Hancock Joins with Consumer Groups, Announces Step Therapy Patient Protections**  
*SB 680 would expedite access to effective treatment*

**AUSTIN** - Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) today joined with multiple health care consumer groups to announce the filing of Senate Bill 680. The legislation would prohibit insurers from requiring patients to fail a prescription medication more than once, even if the patient switches health insurance carriers.

"No patient should be forced to repeat a treatment that doesn't work just because their insurance company doesn't want to pay for the next level of care," said Senator Hancock. "This is truly a common sense reform, and I hope it will make the lives of MS and cancer patients just a little easier during a difficult time."

Step therapy protocols, also referred to as "fail first" protocols, are frequently used by health insurance providers to review the use of prescribed treatments and control costs. SB 680 does not prohibit the practice of step therapy, but does ensure a patient who has completed one "step" of treatment without favorable results can quickly move on to the next "step," at times bypassing unnecessary steps altogether at the advice of their physician.

In addition, the legislation would protect patients whose conditions are well-controlled on one prescription from being required to try a different medication if new step therapy protocols are added to the insurance company's formulary.

For more information or to read the full text of SB 680, visit [Texas Legislature Online](#).

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*Sen. Hancock represents [District 9](#), which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Business & Commerce.*