



American Autoimmune

Related Diseases Association, Inc.

www.aarda.org

February 1, 2021

Letter in Support of LB 337

To the Honorable Members of the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee:

On behalf of tens of millions of Americans who struggle every day with serious illnesses, including autoimmune diseases, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association (AARDA) appreciates the opportunity to send this letter as support for LB 337, a bill introduced by Senator Kolterman earlier this year. We request this letter of support be included as part of the public hearing record.

AARDA is dedicated to the eradication of autoimmune diseases and the alleviation of suffering and the socioeconomic impact of autoimmunity. AARDA is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing a national focus to autoimmune diseases, which are a major cause of serious and chronic health conditions for millions of individuals. AARDA is also the founder and facilitator of the National Coalition of Autoimmune Patient Groups (NCAPG), a coalition of 42 organizations representing numerous diseases. The NCAPG's mission is to convene, support, and amplify the voice of autoimmune disease patients and autoimmune patient groups to enhance capacity, collaboration, and impact through advocacy, education, awareness, and research concerning all aspects of autoimmune disease.

AARDA strongly supports LB 337 because it would provide important patient protections and require that step therapy policies are clinically based on current evidence and for medical reasons only. Step therapy requires a patient to try and fail first on other medications before receiving their doctor-prescribed medication. This practice put patients health at risk and undermines the prescriber's expertise.

LB 337 would create exceptions to step therapy to improve patient care, reduce potentially harmful and unnecessary treatments, and ensure that the patient and prescriber are the sole decision makers on behalf of the plan of care. We want to give a special thank you to Senator Kolterman for his hard work in Nebraska on behalf of patients and for introducing this bill to protect the health of Nebraskans.

Thank you for taking time to listen to the concerns of patients with autoimmune disease and related illnesses. We respectfully ask that you vote in favor of LB 337. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address listed below.

Sincerely,

Randall L. Rutta
President & CEO, AARDA
randallrutta@aarda.org
