



Susan C. Taylor, MD, FAAD, President  
Murad Alam, MD, FAAD, President-elect  
Kevin D. Cooper, MD, FAAD, Vice President  
Larry J. Green, MD, FAAD, Vice President-elect  
Keyvan Nouri, MD, MBA, FAAD, Secretary Treasurer  
Sabra Sullivan, MD, PhD, FAAD, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Seemal R. Desai, MD, FAAD, Immediate Past President  
Elizabeth K. Usher, MBA, Executive Director & CEO



February 26, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray  
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island Senate  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairperson Murray,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Dermatology Society and the more than 17,500 U.S. physician members of the American Academy of Dermatology Association, we urge you to support SB 2468. This legislation would be a critical step to ensure patients have access to their prescription medicines. Health insurers would be required to expeditiously grant a step therapy override determination request if, in the professional judgment of the prescribing physician, the step therapy requirement would be medically inappropriate for that patient. We urge you to support SB 2468.

Step therapy protocols, a cost containment tool used by health insurance plans, require patients to try one or more prescription drugs before coverage is provided for a drug selected by the patient's health care provider. We understand the need to contain health care costs, but we are concerned that step therapy strategies for medication and other treatment selection have the potential to impact patient outcomes and quality of life.

Requiring patients to try and fail treatments jeopardizes the health of patients, potentially resulting in dangerous consequences. In some instances, health plans force patients to return to the same

**CORRESPONDENCE**

PO Box 1968  
Des Plaines, IL 60017-1968

EMAIL: [mrc@aad.org](mailto:mrc@aad.org)  
WEB: [aad.org](http://aad.org)

**ROSEMONT, IL OFFICE**

9500 W Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 500  
Rosemont, IL 60018-5216

MAIN: (847) 330-0230  
FAX: (847) 240-1859

**WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE**

1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 540  
Washington, DC 20004-2401

MAIN: (202) 842-3555  
FAX: (202) 842-4355

treatments that have proven to be ineffective when tried previously under a different health plan. The decision to change plans may occur through no fault of the patient but rather an employer's decision to change plans.

Further, step therapy interferes with the patient-physician relationship by preventing dermatologists from prescribing drugs they know will provide the best treatment results in the most effective manner. SB 2468 would ensure that step therapy protocols used by health plans in Rhode Island will preserve the physician's and nonphysician's right to make treatment decisions in the best interest of the patient. Physicians know their patients' medical history, which enables them to identify potential contraindications and life-threatening adverse reactions. Retaining physicians' medical judgement in patients' treatment plans is a cost-effective way to prevent health care dollars from being used on medications that are not effective. It also prevents patients from enduring a prolonged course of treatment that includes scheduling multiple visits to their physician and spending money on prescription medications that are not effective.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on this important public health issue and urge your support for SB 2468. The passage of this legislation will improve access to prescription medications that are in the best interest of the patient. For further information, please contact Lisa Albany, director of state policy for the American Academy of Dermatology Association, at [lalbany@aad.org](mailto:lalbany@aad.org) or (202) 842-3555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karry La Violette", followed by a horizontal line.

Karry La Violette  
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Policy  
American Academy of Dermatology Association

Reuben H Reich, MD, FAAD  
President, Rhode Island Dermatology Society