

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-331 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING STEP THERAPY REQUIREMENTS FOR

Title: PRESCRIPTION DRUGS COVERED UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/19/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/3/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill would allow the use of step therapy beyond the current statutory 30-day limit. Per the DSS Commissioner, this applies “in situations where manufacturer and FDA evidence-based guidelines exist.” The legislation is viewed by all as an opportunistic remedy to the system, enhancing fluidity and better reflecting therapy requirements with manufacturer guidelines for Medicaid-covered prescriptions.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

LCO 3464: Adds Secs. 2-4 concerning Department of Social Services notice requirements for prior authorization and other denials under HUSKY Health.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Connecticut Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner:

Urges passage of this legislation as it aligns statutory requirements with clinical guidelines and manufacturer recommendations. Ms. Reeves notes that the bill permits flexibility in the duration of therapy, which may be less than or greater than 30 days.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Kathy Flaherty, Executive Director: Supports the bill as it would create more opportunities for DSS to impose step therapy on Medicaid recipients. Ms. Flaherty suggests, however, an amendment to mandate DSS to provide adequate notice that conforms with due process.

Disability Rights Connecticut, Sheldon Toubman, Litigation Attorney: Supports giving DSS additional authority to impose step therapy on prescription drug access. Mr. Toubman shares how step therapy, in practice, often restricts access to the drugs providers choose for their patients, which is what motivated advocates' use of the "fail first" phrase. He suggests an amendment, asking DSS to provide basic due process notice when drugs are denied and when new limitations are imposed.

Biology Innovation Organization, Stephen Burn, Director of Government Relations: Supports SB 331 and its efforts, allowing clinicians to make evidence-based decisions and assess patient-specific needs, instead of resorting to "arbitrary coverage rules." Mr. Burn believes this will benefit rare disease patients specifically.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Zachary Robinson

Date: March 27, 2026