Human Services Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-331 / Bill Status / Public Hearing Testimony
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING STEP THERAPY REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS COVERED UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM.
Vote Date: 3/19/2026
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/3/2026
File No.:

Disclaimer: *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

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, Commissioner, Andrea Barton Reeves:
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, Executive Director, Kathy Flaherty:

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, Litigation Attorney, Sheldon Toubman:
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, Director of Government Relations, Stephen Burm:
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. Burm believes this will benefit rare disease patients specifically.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Zachary Robinson **Date: March 27, 2026**