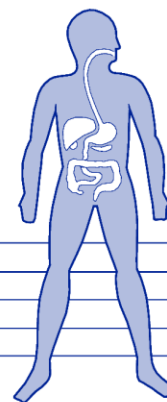


# Digestive Disease National Coalition



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## Step Therapy National Day of Advocacy November 13, 2019 Summary Report

On Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC) and 19 other voluntary and professional healthcare organizations coordinated a National Day of Advocacy to encourage federal legislators to address **step therapy reform** by supporting the *Safe Step Act* (H.R. 2279/S. 2546).



*Patient representatives from participating organizations attend an advocacy training and strategy session before departing for meetings on Capitol Hill.*

Throughout the day, teams of patient representatives in Washington, DC met with over 20 key Senate and House offices, while advocates from around the country urged their members of Congress to support the *Safe Step Act* through calls, emails, letters, and social media.

## **Our Impact**

- **20 Participating Organizations**
- **13 Action Alerts**
- **Over 3500 Advocates Reached**
- **20 Office Meetings**
- **228 Tweets**
- **105 Letters**
- **Over 60% of the Education & Labor Committee Members Contacted**
- **Over 80% of Senate HELP Committee Members Contacted**



*Patient advocates and representatives met with Congressional offices to bolster support for the Safe Step Act.*

### **The Campaign**

**Virtual Advocacy:** Working with its constituent members and other voluntary and professional health care organizations, DDNC developed a **grassroots outreach campaign** to encourage advocates from around the country to contact their legislators through calls, emails, letters, and social media to request their support for the *Safe Step Act*.

**Targeted Capitol Hill Meetings:** DDNC also coordinated a targeted, in-person Capitol Hill Advocacy Day for patient advocates and representatives from participating organizations. Over the course of the day, three teams of advocates met with 20 key Senate and House offices to help bolster co-sponsorship for the bill.

### **Background**

Otherwise known as a “fail first” protocol, step therapy is an insurance practice which mandates that patients try and fail medications preferred by their insurer before they can utilize treatments prescribed by their doctor.

Step therapy protocols may ignore a patient’s unique circumstances and medical history. That means patients may have to use medications that previously failed to address their medical issue, or – due to their unique medical conditions – could have dangerous side effects. The *Safe Step Act* is a balanced public policy proposal which would reform step therapy by establishing a clear and transparent exemption process and an expedited review for at-risk patients.

### **Participating Organizations**

Thank you to everyone who participated in this effort. Please see the list of participating organizations below:

**Digestive Disease National Coalition | American College of Gastroenterology | American College of Rheumatology | American Gastroenterological Association | American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy | American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition | Arthritis Foundation | Association of Gastrointestinal and Motility Disorders | Beyond Celiac | Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation | Global Healthy Living Foundation | IBD Moms | International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders | National Eczema Association | National Pancreas Foundation | National Psoriasis Foundation | The Oley Foundation | Pulmonary Hypertension Association | United Ostomy Associations of America | U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association**



*2019 Step Therapy National Day of Advocacy Participants*