

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR  
**Pain Management  
Nursing**

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June 24, 2010

Re: Support of AB 1826

Dear Senator Alquist,

The American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN) is a non-profit organization and is writing in support of AB 1826. Step, or as it is also known as fail first therapy occurs when an insurer requires that other therapies based on reduced cost be tried first before the medicines that their healthcare provider (nurse practitioner, physician, physician's assistant) initially prescribed as the most effective based on the patient's medical condition. Currently, some patients are required to try up to five different medications or treatments before receiving the effective medication.

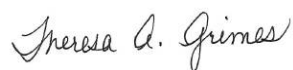
Pain is the number one public health problem in the United States. It is also the most common symptom that leads to medical care and leads to more than 50 million lost workdays each year, costing our economy an estimated \$100 billion in lost productivity. Pain management must be delivered with an individualized, balanced approach using interdisciplinary methods and is not one size fits all - it is often a combination of therapies that achieves the best results. The ability of a patient to function and to maintain quality of life far supersedes a decision based solely on cost. In fact, improper or inappropriate care invariably leads to more persistent illness and complications, which is far more expensive in the long run.

Patients have the right to receive the best possible treatment to alleviate their pain, and those decisions should be made by their healthcare provider using his or her clinical expertise, the individual patient health history, and the best scientific evidence available, not only by cost. This legislation is critical to ensuring that these medical decisions are made by that healthcare provider and not by insurance administrators.

The mission of ASPMN is to advance and promote optimal nursing care for people affected by pain by promoting best nursing practice through education, standards, advocacy, and research. **ASPMN respectfully requests that you support AB 1826.**

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of assistance.

Respectfully yours,



Theresa Grimes, ASPMN President, MN, RN-BC, FNP-BC, CCRN