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August 15, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner  
Governor of Illinois  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

**RE: Thank you for signing House Bill 3549 into law – Step Therapy**

Dear Governor Rauner:

The Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations (CSRO) is a national organization composed of over 30 state and regional professional rheumatology societies formed in order to advocate for excellence in rheumatologic care and to ensure access to the highest quality care for patients with rheumatologic and musculoskeletal disease.

The CSRO wishes to thank you for signing **H.B. 3549** into law, which will enact override protocols to protect patients from potential serious outcomes and increased costs spurred by unregulated step therapy procedures.

Ensuring patients have access to basic protections is monumental. Physicians will now have the authority to override decisions based on a patient’s personal medical history and what they deem to be in the best interest of the patient.

We appreciate your supportive consideration on this important issue to rheumatologists and our patients, and look forward to working with you and your staff as issues related to rheumatology, physician practice and patient access arise.

Sincerely,



Michael Stevens, MD  
President  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations