

Representative Ward,

I appreciate your work on the PDL. I know there is always a fine balance between protecting patients' rights and safety, and saving a significant amount of money in a costly program. Our first concern is always for the patient and that the people we serve are not harmed by legislation that changes choices on drugs. I have appreciated the fact that in drafting this legislation that protections are in place to mitigate any damage to patients. I also fully support an effort to save money for the state. We always need to be mindful of ways that we can accomplish that.

As a Utah Behavioral Healthcare committee we have discussed this issue at length and plan to take a vote on the support of the legislation on Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup>. I realize this is a day after the committee meeting and apologize for that. We will forward our official position to you shortly after that meeting. That being said, I believe from the feedback we have received that there is an overwhelming majority that support this legislation. Most have taken it to their authority boards and have received approval to support the bill.

Our hope would be that there would be some consideration that as there are cost savings to the state that some of those funds could help to fund a severely underfunded Mental Health system. Our support would be because we feel this is a good fiscal decision for the state and doesn't harm the patient. Whether we support it or not should not be contingent on increased funding.

Thank you for your work on this legislation. We will be in touch.

Kyle Snow

CEO, Northeastern Counseling Center

Chairman, Utah Behavioral Healthcare Committee