

## Co-Sponsor S 2546/HR 2279, the Safe Step Act

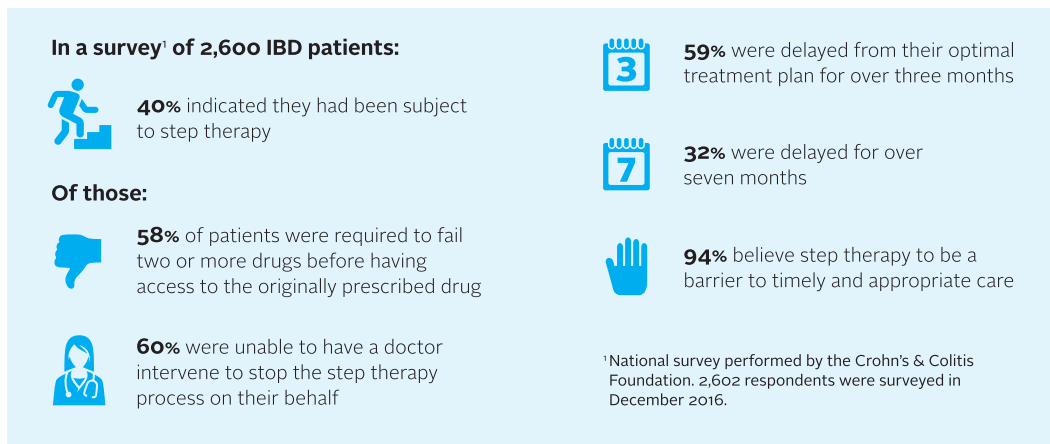
The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation urges members of Congress to co-sponsor S 2546/HR 2279, the Safe Step Act. Introduced by Representatives Raul Ruiz (D-CA-36) and Brad Wenstrup (R-OH-2), and Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Doug Jones (D-AL), and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), these bills would establish patient protections around insurance-mandated step therapy/fail first protocols in employer-sponsored plans. These protections would help patients access the right medication at the right time, and avoid unnecessary and potentially expensive adverse health outcomes that could result from delayed or ineffective treatment.

### What is step therapy/fail first?

Step therapy, also known as fail first, is a protocol used by health insurance companies that requires patients to try and fail on one or more insurer-preferred medications before the insurer will cover the medication originally prescribed by the patient's provider. It is a medical management tool used by health plans to control costs.

### How does step therapy/fail first impact patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)?

When used inappropriately, step therapy can delay needed treatment, lead to worsened health outcomes, and contribute to increased healthcare costs.



### What would S 2546/HR 2279, the Safe Step Act, do?

- Require health plans to implement a clear appeals process for step therapy/fail first
- Establish a 24-72 hour time frame in which insurers must respond to appeals
- Establish circumstances in which a patient may be exempt from step therapy when medically appropriate.

Patients would be eligible for an exception if they are stable or the required treatment:

- Is contraindicated or has been ineffective in the treatment of the patient
- Is reasonably expected to be ineffective
- Will cause or is likely to cause an adverse reaction or physical harm to the patient
- Is expected to decrease the patient's ability to perform daily activities or work