



California  
**Rheumatology**  
Alliance

Advocacy for Patient Access to Rheumatology Care

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June 2, 2014

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
Senate President pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, California 95814  
[senator.steinberg@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.steinberg@senate.ca.gov)

**Re: Support of California Assembly Bill 2418 – Medication Adherence**

Dear Senator Steinberg:

On behalf of the California Rheumatology Alliance (CRA), we urge your favorable consideration of A.B. 2418 (Bonilla), which seeks to increase medication adherence by requiring insurers to allow patients to refill medications at a prorated amount in order to sync refills of multiple prescriptions.

CRA is a non-profit state medical society established to represent all practicing rheumatologists and rheumatology health professionals in California, whose mission is advocacy for patient access to rheumatology care. Many of the conditions rheumatologists treat are progressive, such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, lupus and fibromyalgia. Our patients' diseases lead to worse suffering, disability and even death when not adequately treated. Poor medication adherence results in \$100 billion in excess hospital visits and a total of \$290 billion in avoidable medical spending each year, totaling 13% of all health care expenditures in the United States, according to the New England Healthcare Institute. Effective treatment of chronic diseases with medication improves patient health, reduces the risk of hospitalization and lowers the overall cost of health care. It is vital our patients take their medications as prescribed.

A.B. 2418 provides necessary guidance and promotes medication adherence by requiring insurers to allow insured patients to refill medications at a prorated amount in order to sync refills of multiple prescriptions. In addition, insurers would be required to establish a process whereby insured patients may opt out of mail-order restrictions.

Therefore, we respectfully request your support of A.B. 2418. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Feldman".

Gary R. Feldman, MD  
President