MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

SF 86 (Senator Klimesh)

January 24, 2023

On behalf of the Lupus and Allied Diseases Association and the millions of Iowa residents struggling to manage complicated and potentially fatal diseases of unmet need, we would like to express our strong support for SF 86 an Act relating to continuity of care and nonmedical switching by health carriers, health benefit plans, and utilization review organizations, and including applicability provisions and request that you stand with us and support this important patient protection legislation.

Because lupus is an extremely unpredictable, highly individualized, heterogeneous, multi-system autoimmune disease, having access to the full array of treatments in order to maintain long-term disease stability is absolutely essential and critical to patient well-being. We recognize that any disruption in continuity of care as a result of payer utilization management policies, formulary changes or other cost containment measures has detrimental consequences for individuals dealing with complex care needs causing heightened immune responses, adverse effects, increased symptomology, disease exacerbation and augmented costs.

The Lupus and Allied Diseases Association supports initiatives that address barriers to healthcare access in order to ensure individuals receive the most appropriate therapies as directed by their treating healthcare professionals and consistent disease management is preserved. We strongly support establishing essential patient protections that improve access to vital therapies; in turn reducing the physical and economic impact of disease, improving outcomes, and allowing individuals to lead more productive lives.

The Lupus and Allied Diseases Association is a passion driven, all-volunteer patient advocacy organization dedicated to improving quality of life for those impacted by lupus and allied diseases and conditions of unmet need by promoting innovative advocacy, awareness and biomedical research program initiatives and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to promote patient-centered care and to ensure public policy keeps pace with biomedical research innovation.

As patient stakeholders who represent patients and loved ones dealing with serious medical conditions on a daily basis, we applaud Senator Klimesh and for their ongoing commitment to improve healthcare by sponsoring SF 86 which will establish consumer safeguards to ensure that Iowa residents have access to lifesaving and life-enhancing therapies through consistent coverage, stable formularies, and fair out-of-pocket costs and urge you to support this legislation in the Senate Commerce Committee and move it forward to become law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Arntsen
President & CEO