

ARKANSAS SENATE
87th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2009
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 944

"TO REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN DRUGS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ARKANSANS
WITHOUT RESTRICTION WHEN THE DRUGS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND
RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES."

Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill No. 944.

Amend Senate Bill No. 944 as originally introduced:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) Asthma diagnosis and treatment continue to increase in Arkansas as well as nationwide;**
- (2) Asthma has become increasingly problematic in the Arkansas Medicaid population, especially among children;**
- (3) Arkansas Medicaid has seen steady increases in the use of emergency medicines to treat asthma, reflecting poor asthma control;**
- (4) In Arkansas, controller medications are used at a level below the national average;**
- (5) Medication restrictions imposed on the Medicaid population in Arkansas exceed the restrictions in every other state;**
- (6) The Department of Human Services has failed to produce outcome data following the implementation of asthma medication restrictive policies imposed in 2006; and**
- (7) Because of the medication restrictions imposed by the state Medicaid program, controller medications are not available to the Medicaid population at the same or similar levels as they are to privately insured individuals.**

SECTION 2. Medicaid coverage for asthma medications.

For a period of one (1) year after the effective date of this act, all medications used to treat asthma shall be available without restriction to Medicaid patients eighteen (18) years of age and younger with a prescription from a qualified medical provider."

