

SAIM COALITION

— STATE ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE MEDICINES —

Dr. Colby Evans

Austin, Texas

Dr. Colby Evans is a retired Dermatologist in Austin, Texas. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and previously served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the National Psoriasis Foundation. He has received many honors and published in multiple peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Evans was very involved in lobbying for the Texas legislation that passed in 2017; he went to the State Capitol with 75 to 80 patients and doctors to press for passage. He was still practicing during its first year of implementation.

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Because some dermatologists do not prescribe biologics, they do not know about the law. That seems to be an issue with a number of doctors in the state, but when they do push back, the law does work and they do get exceptions.

“There is still lots of chicanery because doctors do not know about the law and do not have the staff or time to push back.” It’s a “big ask” for most doctors to make exception requests; doctors are inundated with so many issues that need attention. They often will resort to relying on co-pay programs for their patients.

Dr. Evans supports the idea of a state universal form that doctors could use to apply for exceptions. A universal form would be especially helpful to staff dealing with exception requests. He is intrigued by the third-party adjudication process in other states because “third parties scare payors”. But his best remedy, given that Texas has a good step therapy law, is a knowledgeable “patient/doctor/staff” relationship.

