



Written Testimony—Senate Bill 129
Lisa A. Raterman, Chair, Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council
House Insurance Committee
May 17, 2016

Chair Sears, Vice Chair Brinkman, and Ranking Minority Member Bishoff, as chair of the Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council, I appreciate the opportunity to share the Council's perspective on Senate Bill 129.

SB129 will go a long way to improve the prior authorization process for providers and patients in our state. For that reason, we do support SB129 as it passed in the Senate.

However, we do have some recommendations to assist the providers who work with children and adults with hemophilia.

Hemophilia is a genetic bleeding disorder that prevents the blood from clotting properly. The main symptoms are uncontrolled, often spontaneous bleeding, internal bleeding into the joints that can result in pain, swelling, and, if left untreated, can cause permanent damage. Hemophilia patients require life-long infusions of clotting factor therapies that replace missing or deficient blood proteins, thus preventing debilitating and life-threatening internal bleeding. Clotting factor is a maintenance therapy.

Hemophilia affects about 20,000 people in the US and 1,350 Ohioans. Therefore, hemophilia will likely fit the definition of rare disease and the exception from the 12 month prior authorization approval requirement for chronic conditions.

We respectfully request that you consider eliminating the exception from the 12 month prior authorization approval requirement for rare diseases. Or at the least, narrow the exemption to "non-maintenance" prescription drugs so that drugs like clotting factor do not require more frequent prior authorization requests and approvals.

In addition, we support the shortening of the timeframes in legislation for prescription drug prior authorization requests. While there has been some discussion to extending the response times required in the Senate-passed version of SB129, we are concerned about applying those extended timeframes to the approval process for prescription drugs.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on SB129. If you have any questions or need further information, you can contact Susan Jagers at 614-314-5512.