



On behalf of the Ohio Dermatological Association (ODA), I am providing this written testimony to voice our support for S.B. 129, legislation to improve the prior authorization (PA) process for patients and physicians.

The ODA is a statewide organization comprised of over 300 dermatologists and allied health care practitioners who are committed to the mission of improving patient health and quality of life through the practice of dermatology.

S.B. 129 is bi-partisan legislation jointly sponsored by Senators Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) and Capri Cafaro (D-Hubbard) and is intended to provide patients more efficient and effective access to medical care.

The prior authorization process is a tool utilized by health insurers to review the treatment plan and medical decisions that a patient and physician have agreed upon as the best course of treatment for a patient's health condition.

While the prior authorization process has a role in the utilization of health care services, it has resulted in delays and denials of needed medical care. Therefore, reforms are needed to this process to ensure transparency, consistency and timely processing of prior authorization requirements.

The legislation would improve the prior authorization process for patients by making the following changes:

- Requires PA process to be web-based
- Necessitates that new PA requirements must be disclosed 60 days in advance
- Guarantees that once PA has been approved, the insurer will not retroactively deny coverage for the approved service or medication
- Requires insurers to disclose statistics on their PA approvals and denials
- Requires the Department of Insurance to develop a single PA form to be used by all insurers
- Requires 48 hour response on all PA requests, with automatic approval in the event no decision is rendered in 48 hours
- Ensures that adverse decisions are made by a physician under the direction of a medical director of the health insurer or by a panel of other appropriate health care service reviewers with at least one physician on the panel who is board certified or board eligible in the same specialty as the treatment under review
- Ensures a streamlined appeals process in the event that a PA is refused without sufficient explanation

The ODA supports these changes and believes it will result in a fairer and more efficient process for Ohio patients. Therefore we urge you to support S.B. 129.

Best Regards,  
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President  
Ohio Dermatological Association