



**House Bill 130
Proponent Testimony**

Gary Dougherty
Director, State Government Affairs
American Diabetes Association®
House Insurance Committee
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Chairman Lampton and Members of the House Insurance Committee:

My name is Gary Dougherty and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for the American Diabetes Association® (ADA), the nation’s leading voluntary health organization fighting to bend the curve on the diabetes epidemic. Founded in 1940, the ADA is comprised of people with diabetes, healthcare professionals, research scientists, and other concerned individuals. The ADA’s mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

An estimated 37 million Americans and more than **1.1 million Ohioans**, or 12.3% of the adult population, have diagnosed diabetes, a chronic illness that requires continuing medical care and ongoing patient self-management to prevent acute complications and reduce the risk of long-term complications. An additional **three million Ohioans**, 33.6% of the adult population, have prediabetes with blood glucose levels that are higher than normal but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. Ensuring all people with and at risk for diabetes have access to adequate and affordable health care is among ADA’s principal policy priorities.

I regret that I am unable to join you today; however, I want to thank Rep. Miller for introducing HB 130 to streamline the prior authorization process, thereby reducing unnecessary barriers to the care that Ohio patients need as well as reducing administrative burdens that often delay the delivery of care.

HB 130 would create a prior authorization exemption program, known as “gold carding,” that would allow those health care providers who have achieved a prior authorization approval rate of at least 80% over the previous 12 months for a specific medical service to bypass the prior authorization process for that service for at least the next 12 months.

It is commonly known throughout the medical community and among patient advocacy organizations that overuse and misuse of the prior authorization process can lead to administrative burden and unnecessary delays in care that can lead to increased risk and poorer health outcomes for patients.

A “gold card” program, as envisioned by HB 130, would help to ensure that more Ohioans have timely access to the care they need while reducing administrative burdens for providers, allowing our healthcare system to operate with greater efficiency, and, most importantly, improving clinical results.

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On behalf of your constituents, particularly those who are living with or at risk for diabetes, I urge you to support HB 130 as a necessary reform to reduce administrative burden and increase positive health outcomes.

Thank you very much for your attention. If you have any questions, please direct them to me at gdougherty@diabetes.org and I will do my best to answer them for you.