

Proponent Testimony
HB 130 - Prior Authorization Gold Card

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 130. I am a physician in Lima, Ohio, who has experienced many problems with the prior authorization process. I am testifying for the Ohio Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, a group of physicians specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation in Ohio.

Prior authorization is a process currently used by insurance companies that requires providers to obtain insurer approval before prescribing a treatment, test, medication, or other medical service. The process of prior authorization is frequently cited by physicians, their medical staff, and patients as a major contributor to delays in care, which can be detrimental to health outcomes. In fact, according to a survey done by the American Medical Association (AMA) in 2021, 93% of physicians reported care delays resulting from prior authorization, and one-third of providers indicated that prior authorization had caused a delay in care that led to a serious adverse health event for one of their patients.

The prior authorization process is also expensive for physicians, especially those in private practice, as staff need to be hired solely to work on prior authorization due to the amount of work required.

House Bill 130 offers a solution to help ease the burden of prior authorization. This legislation will create a prior authorization “gold card,” where providers who consistently adhere to evidence-based medicine will be exempted from certain prior authorization requirements. Providers who receive approval for prior authorization for a given service at an 80% rate would earn gold card status for the select service for 12 months.

Please support HB 130 which will help improve access to care for Ohio patients.

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