



**Proponent Written Testimony: Ohio Association of Rheumatology
Stephanie Ott, MD
HB 130 - Prior Authorization Gold Card
Ohio House Insurance Committee - June 7, 2023**

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Rheumatology, I write today in support of House Bill 130, which would create a prior authorization “gold card” system in Ohio. HB 130 represents an opportunity for our state to make practical, sensible changes to the prior authorization process which will make patient care more efficient and eliminate existing, needless barriers which keep patients from accessing medically necessary treatments.

This issue is relevant for all physicians of any specialty and practice location or setting. Right now, health care providers spent an enormous amount of valuable time and effort on prior authorization because the current process is dysfunctional, inefficient, and burdensome. Cumbersome administrative tasks associated with obtaining prior authorization often inhibit the delivery of quick, effective patient care. Additionally, the hassle of prior authorization can also contribute to physician fatigue and burnout.

This legislation will reform the prior authorization process by giving physicians with a high rate of approval for a specific service or treatment a “gold card” – meaning that for a 12-month period, that provider will not be subject to prior authorization requirements for that service or treatment. This will significantly streamline patient care and help our physicians deliver the critical care patients need when they need it and without frustrating, risky delays.

We encourage members of the House Insurance Committee to support this meaningful prior authorization reform proposal, in order to continue to work toward bettering Ohio’s health care system for both patients and the providers caring for them. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 130.