



Ohio Ophthalmological Society

Eye MDs & Surgeons Dedicated to Preserving Vision

**Ohio Ophthalmological Society
Proponent Written Testimony – June 7 - House Insurance Committee
HB 130 – Establish an exemption to prior authorization requirements**

Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Miranda and members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 130 on behalf of the Ohio Ophthalmological Society (OOS). The OOS represents 400 Eye MDs and surgeons dedicated to preserving vision for all Ohioans. Put simply, current prior authorization practices create the most significant administrative burden in healthcare today delaying patient care and increasing costs on ophthalmology practices in every corner of the state.

Delay in Patient Care - Over the last year in Ohio, the OOS has heard from members in solo practices and large health systems that prior authorization requirements have led to delays in patient care. This not only impacts the patient's clinical care but also the patient's family. Many ophthalmology patients tend to require assistance from family members or friends to make it to appointments. When visits need to be delayed or rescheduled, it creates additional burdens for those assisting the patient.

Healthcare Worker Burnout - Like most others in the healthcare system, ophthalmology practices are seeing high levels of burnout with everyone working at the office from physicians to administrative staff. The burdens of the current prior authorization process adds to this workforce stress every day. Rescheduling appointments, appealing denials and scheduling calls with the insurance companies are all happening multiple times every day creating an unstable and stressful working environment. This is exacerbated in practices that are working with smaller staffs.

Increased Cost - Prior authorization is also creating increases in the cost of providing care. Ophthalmology practices have to hire additional staff simply to fulfill prior authorization requirements. This cost is added for little or no benefit as our members report that the overwhelming majority of prior authorizations are approved either initially or on appeal.

Solution - The OOS hopes that HB 130 can help reform the system by providing a prior authorization gold card to ophthalmologists who consistently adhere to evidence-based medicine – exempting them from getting a prior authorization for certain procedures. This change is an important step to addressing some of the current burdens in the system.

The OOS appreciates the committee's focus on this important issue and looks forward to working with the committee throughout the policy making process. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Todd Baker
Executive Director

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