



OHIO  
OPTOMETRIC  
ASSOCIATION

House Bill 130  
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Proponent  
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Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Miranda and members of the House Insurance Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on behalf of the Ohio Optometric Association (OOA) on House Bill 130. The OOA is the professional trade association for Ohio's Doctors of Optometry and represents nearly 70% of the state's practitioners.

The OOA strongly supports House Bill 130 because it offers a commonsense solution to ease the burdens created by the prior authorization (PA) process. PA is a process which requires health care providers to obtain insurer approval before prescribing a treatment, test, or other medical service. While aimed at avoiding unnecessary health care expenditures, the process unfortunately can be a contributor to delays in care, which can be detrimental to health outcomes. OOA members and their staff frequently cite the PA process as a significant administrative burden for their offices and a cause of delay for patients in receiving treatment.

House Bill 130 would help alleviate this burden by creating a PA "Gold Card," where providers who consistently prove adherence to PA standards and obtain approval of PA requests for medically necessary services will be exempted from certain requirements in the future. Providers who receive approval for PA for a given service at an 80% rate would earn gold card status for the select service for 12 months. This system will streamline the health care delivery system and significantly reduce the administrative burdens experienced by our doctors and their staff. The State of Texas passed similar legislation last year, and around 30 states have introduced some form of prior authorization reform legislation.

Providing timely access to comprehensive eye care is important for Ohio residents and is critical to helping develop and maintain a healthy workforce in our state. There is a strong connection between eye health and chronic health issues, including diabetes, hypertension and others. Ensuring that patients can obtain primary vision care services seamlessly is an important component in treating and managing these chronic health concerns. It is also important to note that the bill applies to Medicaid plans and entities administering the program on the Department of Medicaid's behalf. Ohio's optometrists participate in the Medicaid program at a high rate (between 60-70% accept Medicaid patients) and relieving the PA administrative burden in the program will help ensure that recipients continue to have access to an adequate eye care provider network. An additional area that the committee may wish to explore to further the bill's impact is to include "Gold Card" standards to commercial plans covering supplemental services, such as vision care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 130. We appreciate your work on this important legislation and encourage your support for the bill. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 781-0708 or [kkerns@ooa.org](mailto:kkerns@ooa.org) or our consulting lobbyists Dan Leite and Courtney Saunders at (614) 224-9900.