

6-7-2023

Rep Brian Lampton  
Chairman  
Ohio House Insurance Committee  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB130 Testimony for the Insurance Committee

Dear Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Miranda and members:

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 130 which seeks to free patients and their providers from costly and burdensome red tape. Thanks to Rep Miller for his efforts in connecting patients and the treatments they need. I represent Heartland Impact. Heartland advocates for market based solutions and patient-centered healthcare.

Patients should have access to the most appropriate treatment, medication, or device for their health. Prior Authorization (PA) reform seeks to eliminate the unnecessary barriers to the right treatment at the right time. Physicians, prescribers and staff are wasting valuable time fighting to get permission from an insurance company to provide the best care to their patients.

[House Bill 130](#) will create a Prior Authorization Gold Card for some providers who will be exempted from certain prior authorization requirements. Physicians who are consistently approved for authorization will be granted presumptive exemptions (commonly known as a “gold card”).

The [legislation](#) also requires that an insurance company “shall make prior authorization data available on its public website in readily accessible format” outlining which services are PA required and the process for denial and appeal. The balance of these two provisions will provide a small but important step toward transparency and access for patients.

Gold Card legislation passed in Texas ([HB3459](#)) in 2021, with similar requirements. The [Texas Medical Association reported](#) that of their sampled docs, “Four-fifths (85%) reported prior authorizations delayed patient care, and 78% said this can lead patients to abandon needed treatment altogether.”

The [Ohio State Medical Association is joined](#) by more than 30 other medical societies in supporting Rep Miller's HF130. *"As physicians, we know prior authorization impacts the way we practice medicine, and our patients, every day," said Dr. Brian Santin, OSMA President, Chief Medical Officer at Clinton Memorial Hospital and a Vascular Surgeon with Ohio Vein & Vascular, Inc. "Prior Authorization is frequently cited as not only a major contributor to administrative burden, but also a cause for delay and roadblocks to patients receiving critical treatment and care."*

A [2022 AMA survey shows](#) PA reform is needed to address patient safety concerns. 94% of physicians report care delays due to PA. 33% say that PA has led to a serious adverse event for a patient. 25% report a hospitalization due to PA and 9% confirm that PA led to a patient's disability, permanent bodily damage, congenital anomaly, birth defect, or death.

The Biden/Harris administration is seeking to streamline PA through [mandates](#) on payers. [CMS proposed reforms to implement](#) an electronic prior authorization process, shorten timeframes for certain payers to respond to PA requests, and make information more readily available through enhanced transparency requirements. The policy focuses on public plans and oversight.

Legislatures should adopt common sense PA reforms to improve patient safety and redirect valuable physician and staff time away from insurance companies and back to the patient.

Thank you again for your consideration of this bill and for your service to your constituents.

Matt Dean

*The following resources provide additional information about prior authorization reform efforts:*

**Bills in 30 states show momentum to fix prior authorization**

<https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/prior-authorization/bills-30-states-show-momentum-fix-prior-authorization>

The American Medical Association reviews Prior Authorization Legislation in the States

**CMS Prior authorization proposal aims to streamline the process and improve transparency**

<https://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/cms-prior-authorization-proposal-aims-to-streamline-the-process-and-improve-transparency/>

The Kaiser Foundation examines the proposed federal action to improve patient care through PA reform.

### **Could Texas Law on Limiting Prior Authorization Delays Move the Needle Nationwide?**

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/94625>

Jennifer Henderson from MedPage looks at how the “gold card” is the first step in helping physicians with the burdensome process of prior authorization.

### **Measuring the Scope of Prior Authorization Policies**

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/fullarticle/2780396>

JAMA details procedures that require prior authorization and how that impacts delivery

### **Will Prescriber “Gold Cards” Solve the Prior Authorization Problem?**

<https://www.priorauthtraining.org/prior-authorization-gold-cards/>

The Accreditation Council for Medical Affairs reviews “Gold Card” statutes as a means of reforming PA

### **Why Prior Authorization is Bad for Patients and Business**

<https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/prior-authorization/why-prior-authorization-bad-patients-and-bad-business>

Andis Robeznieks from the American Medical Association outlines what’s wrong with prior authorization

*This testimony does not necessarily reflect the views of Heartland Impact. Heartland Impact can send an expert to your state to testify or brief your caucus; host an event in your state or send you further information on a topic. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance. If you have any questions or comments, contact Heartland's government relations department, at [governmentrelations@heartlandimpact.org](mailto:governmentrelations@heartlandimpact.org)*