



June 7, 2023

Representative Brian Lampton
Chair, House Insurance Committee
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lampton and Members of the House Insurance Committee:

The Ohio Hematology Oncology Society (OHOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to support **HB 130**, a bill which would exempt providers with a high rate of approvals from prior authorization requirements.

OHOS represents nearly 200 physicians specializing in the practice of Hematology and Oncology (blood disorders and cancer). OHOS is committed to promoting excellence in the care of patients afflicted with cancer and hematologic disorders in Ohio. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality, equitable cancer care.

Prior authorization requires patients or their providers to secure pre-approval as a condition of payment or insurance coverage of services. In a recent ASCO survey, nearly all survey participants reported a patient has experienced harm because of prior authorization processes, including significant impacts on their health, such as disease progression (80%). The most common harms to patients include delays in treatment (96%) and diagnostic imaging (94%), patients being forced onto second-choice therapy (93%) or denied therapy (87%) and increased out-of-pocket costs (88%). These survey results confirm that prior authorization results in unnecessary delays or denials of cancer care.

OHOS and ASCO are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving quality of cancer care; however, it is critical that such policies be developed and implemented in a way that does not undermine patient access. Payer utilization management approaches like prior authorization are of particular concern because they represent greater likelihood of raising barriers to appropriate care for individuals with cancer.

While many treatments preferred by payers cost less, they may not be the best treatment available for the patient. HB 130 would offer providers that have at least an 80% approval rate of prior authorization requests over a 12-month period an exemption from prior authorization requirements. A well-earned exemption for providers that have a proven track record of prior authorization approvals will allow doctors to skip the burdensome prior authorization process, ultimately resulting in more-timely delivery of care to patients.

We are encouraged by the steps HB 130 takes toward improving prior authorization in Ohio. For a more detailed understanding of our policy recommendations on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Position Statement: Prior Authorization](#). Please contact Sarah Lanford at ASCO at Sarah.Lanford@asco.org if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Slobodan Stanistic, MD/MSW

Slobodan Stanistic, MD
President
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society



Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology