



June 7, 2023
HB 130 Proponent Testimony
House Insurance Committee

Chairman Lampton, Vice Chairman Barhorst, Ranking Member Miranda and all members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony regarding House Bill 130 on behalf of the Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA). OPTA represents a membership of almost 4,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy in Ohio. There are nearly 20,000 total physical therapists and physical therapy assistants licensed in Ohio.

I am here today to request your favorable consideration of HB 130, legislation that will create a prior authorization gold card for high performing healthcare providers.

Meaningful physical therapy for injury and surgical recovery often requires numerous visits to a therapist to reach a patient's recovery goals. Unfortunately, insurers' prior authorization requirements can delay that timely care. Obtaining prior authorization is a burden to the patient, referring physician, physical therapist, and the therapist's administration staff. Often the physical therapist's office waits days to receive authorization, delaying the patient's care causing the patient to reschedule or delay the follow-up appointments as they have not completed the Plan of Care established by the therapist. The administration staff is overburdened with sending various reports as the requests from the insurance company are unclear and inconsistent. The insurance company, in turn, might only authorize three out of 10 ordered or planned visits, and the process starts over again. The process can often delay care over –three to four weeks, slowing the healing and frustrating the patient.

The OPTA would also point out that most requests for visits to the physical therapist eventually get approved but not at the requested number of visits. This affirms that the vast majority of medical providers are doing things correctly and should have gold card status to relieve some of the administrative burdens. The gold card could also allow a provider to continue care during the transition from another provider. An established plan of care is prepared based on uninterrupted care for the best expected outcomes, predicted level of optimal improvements, timely application of specific interventions based on the duration and frequency of the interventions.

The OPTA believes the healthcare providers' clinical judgement should be respected, and HB 130 is an important step in the right direction. If a provider's prior authorizations are overwhelmingly approved, the gold card will allow them to more efficiently deliver care to patients.

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate your support of HB 130.