



COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY ALLIANCE

Dedicated to Advocating for Community Oncology Patients and Practices

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*Proponent Testimony, HB 130 Prior Authorization Gold Card
House Insurance Committee
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Chair Lampton,

On behalf of the Community Oncology Alliance (COA), we would like to thank the House Insurance Committee for considering House Bill 130 and the impact prior authorization reform would have on Ohioans living with cancer.

COA is the only nonprofit organization in the United States dedicated solely to independent community oncology practices, which serve the majority of Americans receiving treatment for cancer. Community oncology clinics deliver high-quality cancer care often at a fraction of the cost of treatment delivered in other settings. For instance, in recent years, the Journal of Clinical Oncology found that breast cancer patients save nearly \$8,000 in cost per month for treatment at a community oncology practice compared to patients in a hospital setting.

However, while community oncologists strive to provide patients with affordable, high-quality care, many patients continue to face obstacles to treatment due to overburdensome prior authorization policies. Rather than being utilized by insurers to ensure proper treatment and control waste, prior authorizations – along with “fail first” step therapy and other “utilization management” tactics – are being used to control costs. The result is that prior authorizations create bureaucratic roadblocks that simply delay or deny Ohioans with cancer from getting the treatment their providers propose.

House Bill 130 prescribes a solution for the current challenges posed by prior authorization by introducing the concept of a “gold card,” which grants exemptions to healthcare providers who consistently follow evidence-based medical practices. Under the bill, providers who achieve an 80% approval rate for prior authorization requests, are awarded gold card status for a particular service, valid for a duration of 12 months.

As a representative of community oncology practices in Ohio, with patients that stand to benefit from this bill, we ask the committee to assist our members in the fight against cancer and pass HB 130.

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