

Testimony submitted via email.

Dear Representative Greenlick,

This email is in regards to house bill 2778. I am writing to you to express my support for this bill.

I am an acupuncturist in the state of Oregon. In the past three years I have seen insurance companies use preauthorization programs to limit and deny services to people in need of the care we provide.

Example:

I have a 57 year old female patient who suffers from chronic migraines. With my treatments, we reduced both the frequency and severity of the attacks, and she reduced her use of pain medications more than 50%. My patient still needs monthly maintenance treatments to keep her migraines under control. The preauthorization program allowed her only insufficient treatment to completely control the flare-ups. They now say that she is unable to receive further treatment because she has a chronic condition that will never fully resolve, and her condition has reached maximum improvement.

Because of preauthorization program I was not allowed to create a treatment plan that effectively treated this patient. This is one example of many.

My concerns with the preauthorization program are the following:

- It creates roadblocks to care for patients and often prevents them from receiving needed care.
- It requires an added level of administrative work necessary to guarantee payment.
- Many acupuncture clinics are small, solo practices that are overwhelmed by these additional insurance requirements

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and I hope you will fight for the health care that Oregonians deserve.

Sincerely yours,

Erin

Erin R. Ward, LAc, LMT
Anjuna Medicine, LLC
656 Charnelton Street
Eugene, OR 97401
Clinic #: 541-653-8692
Mobile #: 718-306-2887
Fax #: 541-653-8789
anjunamedicine.com