



The Honorable Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care

February 5, 2019

RE: Support of SB 139

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

On behalf of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon and the over 1,500 osteopathic physicians and medical students we represent, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 139.

This bill is of particular importance to our organization as the majority of our members practice in primary care fields where they often experience unnecessary administrative burdens in providing medical services to Oregonians in need.

This bill would reduce administrative burdens, prevent delays in treatments for patients, and improve the prior authorization process.

- By requiring patients to be able to continue treatments for a 12-month period after they have already been approved, duplicative requirements for submitting prior authorization requests can be eliminated allowing physicians to spend more time on direct patient care and less on paperwork.
- Following the denial of a prior authorization request, by requiring insurers to include the specific reason for the denial, physicians can better understand insurer requirements and avoid future treatment denials that can delay patient care.
- By requiring insurers to continue to provide coverage during the appeals process for a treatment denial, patients who are on stable treatment plans can continue to receive necessary treatments and avoid changes when treatments are ultimately approved.

We appreciate your consideration of this bill and ask that you support this effort to streamline this process for the ultimate benefit and health of Oregon's citizens.

Sincerely,

David Walls – Executive Director