



**OREGON
ACADEMY OF
OPHTHALMOLOGY**
Eye Physicians & Surgeons

**TO: Chair Patterson
Sen. Knopp, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Health Committee**

**FR: Sabrina Riggs, Lobbyist
sabrina@daltonadvocacy.com
On behalf of Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology**

RE: Support for HB 2517A

May 3, 2021

The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) is a professional association of eye physicians and surgeons who specialize in the medical and surgical treatment of eye diseases and other conditions, and also provide vision care services. The Academy's purpose is to promote and improve the practice of medicine and surgery in relation to the eye.

The OAO is writing today in strong support of HB 2517A. The OAO recognizes that prior authorization and step therapy measures can be used as important cost-containment tools. However, the OAO also recognizes that these tools often lead to significant administrative burden to patients, physicians and clinic staff alike, and also often cause patients to delay or avoid necessary care. This can exacerbate chronic conditions and lead to worse—and more expensive—overall health outcomes.

Often, prior authorization and step therapy requirements are confusing to navigate, and in some cases, are not transparent. Especially frustrating is the requirement of “fail first” measures, when both the patient and the provider already know which medication or treatment would work best. For some chronic eye conditions, swift treatment is necessary to stop vision loss in its tracks—and onerous prior authorization or step therapy requirements that act as an unnecessary barrier to effective care might cause the patient to lose their sight while awaiting the effective treatment they, and their physician, know they need.

The OAO believes that HB 2517A is an important step to add fairness, efficiency and transparency to prior authorization and step therapy requirements. On behalf of Oregon's ophthalmologists, we respectfully request your support and passage of HB 2517A.