

March 27, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
*Submitted electronically via OLIS*

**RE: HB 3134, Relating to prior authorization**

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Javadi, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hospital Association of Oregon is a mission-driven nonprofit association representing Oregon's 61 community hospitals. Prior authorization is a tool to delay and deny care, preventing patients from accessing the care they need and providers from getting paid for the work they do. HB 3134 begins to address these issues and has started a conversation among stakeholders and advocates about how Oregon can support patients and protect access to care.

Too often insurers deny payment for necessary care that has already been provided to patients, impose onerous requirements for providers to get approval to render care that Oregonians need, and apply other administrative obstacles that take time and attention away from patient care.

As this conversation continues, we will prioritize policies that streamline access to care for Oregonians, reduce the frustration that patients experience, and mitigate the administrative harm to providers when trying to obtain approval or payment for crucial health care services.

Consistently about half of Oregon's community hospitals are operating in the red. Patients are coming to hospitals sicker and in need of more services, yet hospitals are facing skyrocketing costs of supplies and staffing.

While the cost of providing care has increased, payments for services have not followed. Providers face significant administrative burdens to get paid for their services, if they are paid at all. This is a serious issue that affects all Oregonians, as hospitals cannot sustain services indefinitely in a financial deficit.



The hospital association encourages the committee to continue to engage with relevant stakeholders, including hospitals, insurers, patient advocates, and other community members to develop meaningful solutions to protect patients, access to critical services, and maintain the stability of the Oregon health care system.

Sincerely,



Troy Duker  
Director of Government Affairs  
Hospital Association of Oregon

#### **About the Hospital Association of Oregon**

Founded in 1934, the Hospital Association of Oregon (HAO) is a mission-driven, nonprofit trade association representing Oregon's 61 hospitals. Together, hospitals are the sixth largest private employer statewide, employing more than 70,000 employees. Committed to fostering a stronger, safer, more equitable Oregon where all people have access to the high-quality care they need, the hospital association supports Oregon's hospitals so they can support their communities; educates government officials and the public on the state's health landscape, and works collaboratively with policymakers, community based organizations and the health care community to build consensus on and advance health care policy benefiting the state's four million residents.



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