

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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MEMO TO: Honorable Gail Haines Chairwoman
House Health Policy Committee

FROM: Dr. Steven Newman

RE: House Bill 4274 and 4275

Good Morning and thank you Madam Chair and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify. My name is Doctor Steven Newman. I am here to speak for over 16,000 physician members of our Michigan State Medical Society. We offer support for House Bills 4274 and 4275 that would create the initial steps reducing red tape for our patients and physicians.

Prior authorization is an epidemic waste to an efficient modern healthcare system. Physicians strive to ensure that their recommended care is (1) cost effective, & (2) best practices. However, not infrequently, this a frustrating pursuit for those patients waiting anxiously to receive provider authorization for procedures or treatment.

As you can see from the stack of actual forms next to me, countless hours are wasted filling paperwork, rather than spending time with out patients. It takes 2 FTE staff /physician in my practice. This is costly in time and expense to our patients and practices – just to properly complete the variety of paper work for each individual company. Excessive prior authorization is both redundant and wasteful: whereas, a universal prior authorization form offers insurers cost control, while limiting company game playing.

These bills are a significant step in the correct direction; They will provide a uniform outline for physicians to use. We can make Michigan a leader, developing pathways for medicine to be accessible and time effective in the years ahead. This legislation helps provide one answer. It is consistent with an administration, and legislature, that has been looking for creative ways to streamline regulations in Michigan.

We strongly encourage your support of House Bill 4274 and 4275. Please help Michigan develop meaningful quality, and improve access to efficient medicine. These bills permit our physicians to care for your constituents in the exam rooms, rather than in our back offices filling out a multiplicity of varying forms. Thank you for providing MSMS the time and opportunity to assist you today.

I am happy to answer any questions the committee might have.

