

Jim Lysen
Lewiston

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and honorable Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee members. My name is Jim Lysen, I live in Lewiston, and I am here to speak in support of LD 1496 to address when changes in insurance coverage and prior authorization requirements get in the way of access to medications and care.

I have been a healthcare administrator for 12 years for Community Clinical Services (part of St. Mary's Healthcare System) as well as a patient with ongoing, chronic conditions. I have been delayed medications often due to the need for "Prior Authorizations."

I have sleep apnea for which I need to take medications in order to be on my C-Pap machine. I have been taking these medications for years, but often my pharmacy requires me to receive yet another "Prior Authorization" before dispensing me the required medication. I did not sleep well because I needed those medications! And poor sleep can cause its own problems. A 5 year window for my "Prior Authorization" medications which I have been taking for over 20 years seems reasonable.

I also was denied one of my medications (Symbicort) because Medicare said it was not on their formulary anymore. However, the replacement medication was not satisfactory, and caused issues that worsened my chronic condition. I also heard in my days as a Healthcare Administrator that patients had delays in medications and treatment due to changes in insurances and due to the requirement for prior authorizations.

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on this important bill.

Thank you for the time to speak today!