



Physicians Caring for Texans

House Insurance Committee
Testimony by Tony Aventa, MD, Texas Medical Association
House Bill 4067 (TDI Utilization Review Audits) by Rep. Hubert Vo
April 4, 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members, for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Tony Aventa, and I am a physician specializing in internal medicine from Austin. Today I am testifying on behalf of TMA and its more than 57,000 members across the state of Texas **for** House Bill 4067.

I would like to thank Representative Vo for filing this bill, as physicians and health care providers across the state often express concerns regarding health plan implementation of prior authorization and other utilization review processes and the negative impact of these processes on patient care.

As has been said in previous weeks before this committee, 85% of physicians report prior authorization has caused delays in care and 78% said it has led to patient abandonment of treatment.

Given the negative impact that prior authorization and other utilization review processes can have on patient care and finances, it is important for health plans to comply with the timeframe, transparency, and other requirements the Texas Legislature has put in place for prior authorization and other forms of utilization review.

The goal of House Bill 4067 is to require the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to perform more regular examinations (at least annually) to assess the extent of health plan compliance (or lack thereof) with requirements concerning prior authorization and other forms of utilization review under Texas law. This is an important consumer protection, as it will allow for more timely detection of violations by TDI.

The overarching concern here is that patient care may be delayed or negatively impacted, including a patient's finances if the requirements that the Texas Legislature put in place are not followed.

I want to thank the committee for working to reduce the negative impact of prior authorizations and utilization review on Texas patients. Thank you as well for helping physicians, as business owners, reduce the burdens associated with prior authorization and utilization review processes. I am happy to answer any questions.