



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

**TO: Chair Prusak
Re. Salinas and Rep. Hayden, Vice Chair
Members of the House Health Committee**

**FR: Sabrina Riggs, Lobbyist
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On behalf of Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons**

RE: Support for HB 2517

March 2, 2021

The Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons is the professional association for orthopaedists in our state. With over 150 members, our Association strives to advance the highest quality of musculoskeletal care.

Our members recognize that prior authorization and step therapy practices can be used as important tools for cost containment. However, our members—and more importantly, their patients, are finding that onerous prior authorization and step therapy requirements are causing unnecessary delays in access to care. In the field, this can often mean that untreated injuries are compounded, ultimately leading to unnecessary pain for the patient, and worse long-term health outcomes.

The process for prior authorization and step therapy should be more efficient, transparent and fair— both for patients and providers. To highlight this need, one of our board members offered the recent example of a patient who was suffering from an infection after a knee replacement. The typical course of treatment calls for two surgeries to address this, called stage treatment. 1) remove the knee replacement and put in a temporary replacement, and 2) re-implant the knee replacement. In this example, they got authorization for taking the knee out, but then were denied approval for the next necessary step, re- implantation, because it wasn't deemed "medically necessary".

OAOS believes that HB 2517 is an important step that will help to address cases like the above by making the prior authorization process more transparent, fair and effective for patients and their providers. On behalf of Oregon's Orthopaedic Surgeons, we respectfully request your support and swift passage of HB 2517.