



**TO:** Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Healthcare

**FR:** Sabrina Riggs  
*For the Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology*  
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**RE:** Support for HB 3134A

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The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology (OAO) is the professional association of eye physicians and surgeons who specialize in the medical and surgical treatment of eye diseases and other conditions, and also provide vision care services. The OAO writes in strong support of HB 3134A and respectfully urges the Committee to pass the bill.

The burden of prior authorization continues to create significant administrative burden for our physician members, and a recent survey from the Oregon Medical Association showed that prior authorization has increased significantly over the last 5 years, and 99% of responding providers reported that prior authorization creates delays in healthcare. This bill will expand data collected by DCBS to include information about denials, appeals and overturned denials of prior authorization.

In addition, our members are particularly passionate about the section of the bill that will clarify that when a patient is in surgery and their physician notices a secondary emergent issue, they can act on that secondary emergent issue without seeking additional prior authorization. This clarification not only saves time and administrative efforts for the physician, but it is significantly better for the patient and for the health system overall. In ophthalmology, this kind of situation is not infrequent. For cataract surgeons, there are times when the lens capsule ruptures during removal of the cataract and they will have to perform a vitrectomy at that time. As well, an OAO member who is an oculoplastic specialist shared that there have been multiple situations when he has been performing facial surgery and has seen a concerning lesion on a different part of the face. While the patient was already sedated, he performed a biopsy to rule out or confirm a diagnosis of cancer. HB 3134A with the forthcoming amendment will ensure that providers can be reimbursed for this work, and that patients do not have to return to undergo additional procedures at a later date, which conserves time and resources.

The Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB 3134A, which will help patients receive timely care, and also address administrative burden and ease provider burnout. Thank you for your consideration.