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Proponent Written-only Testimony on SB 330  
Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

Chairwoman Dietrich and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **proponent testimony on SB 330**, which enacts the "Ensuring Transparency in Prior Authorization Act." SB 330 establishes clear requirements and limitations on the use of prior authorization in health care delivery in Kansas, setting standards for timeliness, transparency, review processes, and reporting.

### **Why Prior Authorization Reform Matters for Children**

Children are uniquely vulnerable to delays in care. Their developmental windows are short, and timely access to medical, behavioral, dental, and therapeutic services often dictates long-term outcomes. Prior authorization, while intended to prevent inappropriate care, has grown into a system that routinely delays treatment, interrupts continuity, and imposes unnecessary burdens on families and providers.

A 2024 American Medical Association survey found<sup>1</sup>:

- 93% of physicians report that prior authorization delays necessary care;
- 94% report that it negatively affects clinical outcomes; and
- 29% report it has caused a serious adverse event for a patient.

These systemic delays fall especially hard on children, who rely on adults to navigate complicated insurance processes, meet tight deadlines, and advocate for urgent care. When parents are stuck in administrative battles instead of focusing on their child's health, kids lose precious time.

For many Kansas families, especially those managing chronic conditions, disabilities, or behavioral health needs, delays caused by prior authorization can mean:

- Interruptions in essential medications;
- Gaps in speech, occupational, or behavioral therapies; and
- Delayed diagnoses of emerging health issues.

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<sup>1</sup> American Medical Association. (2025). *2024 AMA prior authorization physician survey*. <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/prior-authorization-survey.pdf>

Every one of these disruptions can alter a child’s developmental trajectory.

**SB 330 includes several reforms that directly benefit children.**

**1. Timeliness Requirements**

By creating structured timelines for prior authorization decisions, SB 330 reduces the wait times that currently delay essential care. Timely determinations are especially crucial for infants and young children, where even a few weeks of delay in treatment or therapy can lead to lifelong challenges.

**2. Transparency in Decision-Making**

Requiring insurers to share evidence-based guidelines, report denial and approval rates, and provide clear reasoning for decisions allows families and providers to understand, and potentially challenge, improper denials. This transparency supports a fairer process for children receiving specialized care.

**3. Protection of Approved Treatment Plans**

Under SB 330, once a service is approved, it remains valid for the duration of treatment. Children with chronic or long-term conditions benefit enormously from stable approval periods, preventing treatment disruptions that can cause regression or medical complications.

**4. Specialist Review for Appeals**

Ensuring that denials and appeals are reviewed by clinicians of the same or similar specialty helps safeguard children with complex needs from being denied care by reviewers without appropriate expertise.

Additionally, Section 4 of the bill offers important protections for pregnant women by **eliminating prior authorization for vaginal and cesarean births**, ensuring providers can act quickly without administrative delays. This helps prevent dangerous slowdowns during labor and reduces stress for expectant mothers, supporting safer, more reliable maternity care.

I ask that you pass this bill so that all Kansas kids get the timely health care they deserve. **Kansas has the opportunity to join other states recognizing that prior authorization reform is not just a health care systems issue – it is a children’s health issue.** Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important topic. You can reach me at [heather@kac.org](mailto:heather@kac.org) if you have any additional questions.

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***About Kansas Action for Children***

KAC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization working to make Kansas a place where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and thrive. KAC does not receive any funding from local, state, or federal government sources; however, we have a keen interest in the state budget because of its impact on children and families.