

February 4, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 330

Chair Dietrich & Members of the Senate Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee,

For people living with serious illnesses, every single day matters. Yet across the country, timely medical care is too often delayed by a bureaucratic hurdle known as **prior authorization**. Originally designed by insurers as a cost-management tool, it has evolved into a system that routinely slows or blocks access to essential treatments. For many Americans, this means waiting weeks—or even months—for approval while their health deteriorates.

For patients, parents, and caregivers, this process is deeply frustrating. When someone is facing a life-threatening or life-limiting diagnosis, a few months is simply too long to wait. The human cost of these delays and denials cannot be overstated.

My name is **Karey Padding**, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics. But today, I am not speaking to you in my professional capacity. I am speaking as a mother and advocate for my 15-year-old son, who lives with cystic fibrosis, autism, and is nonverbal.

For most families, the start of a new year brings a sense of hope and renewal. For my husband and me, it marks the beginning of an exhausting annual routine: **re-justifying the very medications that keep our son alive and stable**. Every January, we brace ourselves to answer questions that feel as absurd as they are painful.

Gavin was born with cystic fibrosis, a progressive genetic disease that affects the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. Nearly 40,000 children and adults in the United States are living with cystic fibrosis, with an estimated 105,000 diagnosed worldwide across 94 countries. CF affects people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Each day, individuals with CF complete a demanding regimen of therapies, including:

- **Airway clearance** to loosen and remove thick mucus from the lungs. Gavin uses a “vest” device for this—equipment that costs \$16,000, took months for insurance to approve, and still required a 10% out-of-pocket payment from our family.
- **Inhaled medications** delivered through a nebulizer to open the airways, thin mucus, and fight lung infections.
- **Pancreatic enzymes**, taken with every meal and most snacks, to absorb essential nutrients—Gavin takes 18–20 of these pills each day, alongside required multivitamins.

- **Individualized fitness and physical activity programs** to support lung function and overall health.
- **CFTR modulators**, highly specialized medications that target the underlying protein defect caused by CF. These therapies are mutation-specific and life-changing for those who qualify.

So yes, Gavin still needs his pancreatic enzymes.

Yes, he still needs Alyftrek, the triple-combination CF modulator approved by the FDA just last year—one of the few therapies that treats the **underlying cause** of cystic fibrosis, not just the symptoms. And do you know how excruciating it is to wait for a so-called “miracle drug” to make its way through the research pipeline, survive years of clinical trials, finally secure FDA approval—only to then be forced to wait even longer while an insurance company drags its feet through the prior authorization process before allowing your child access to it?

And yes—he still has cystic fibrosis. It is a life-limiting genetic disease with no cure. His condition did not disappear simply because the calendar flipped to a new year. Yet each year, we are required to prove once again that he needs these medications to survive and thrive.

For families like mine, prior authorization is not an abstract policy issue. It is a daily, tangible, deeply personal struggle. Every delay introduces risk. Every denial forces parents into battles they never asked for—battles that steal time, energy, and peace from families already carrying more than most will ever know.

This is why reform matters. Because behind every form, every denial letter, and every request for “more documentation” is a real person whose health depends on timely care—and a family doing everything in its power to protect them.

Thank you for your time and attention.