

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Tarnoff, Gerald m <gtarnoff@Lifespan.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 6:53 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee  
**Subject:** H7623

February 28, 2024  
Steven Sepe, Committee Clerk,

I am a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist who has lived and treated psychiatric patients in Rhode Island for over 33 years. I am writing now to voice my support for House Bill 7623, Health Insurance Oversight, requiring a report to be produced that focuses on prescription drug prior authorizations by January 1, 2025. Although I worry that a study, not to be produced until 10 months from now can delay any needed action, I also see this as a step in the direction of necessary oversight. During my career in Rhode Island, I have found prior authorizations to delay, hinder and even prevent appropriate treatment. Step therapy, or the need to actually fail treatment with 2 or more drugs before a medicine preferred by the patient and doctor is approved, further delays treatment. This can be cruel and in some situations even dangerous. Prior authorizations also further remove patients from the collaborative treatment with their prescriber who has to spend a significant amount of time not being with their patients, while trying to get a medication approved. I therefore support this effort to look more closely at the prior authorization process, and hope this can lead to effective reform. Several professional agencies (including the American Medical Association, specialty organizations and state medical societies) have previously joined to develop "Prior Authorization and Utilization Management Reform Principles\*" that can be helpful in this review.

Thank you, for your consideration of this important task.

Gerald Tarnoff,  
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