

Hello, my name is Carrie Varner and I'm submitting my testimony in support of Senate Bill 2280. I found out in early 2023 that I have severe eosinophilic asthma, which is caused by a rare genetic disorder known as Job's Syndrome. Job's Syndrome affects my immune system, making me extremely susceptible to respiratory infections and complications from said infections. It also affects my skeletal system, which is why I stopped growing when I was 8 years old and why I still have most of my baby teeth. My type of asthma isn't able to be treated with traditional asthma medications and I was told about Xolair, an immunosuppressant medication for my type of asthma. I had to get prior authorization from my insurance in order to get the medication and it took 8 tries before I could get the medication. After I lost my extra help from my insurance because my income exceeded the limit for extra help in October 2024, I had to go through the process of getting prior authorization again in January.

My copay with the extra help was around 25 dollars a month; without it, it went up to 2,651.49 a month. I couldn't afford it during the prior authorization process and went without it for nearly two months; I had a significant decrease in my ability to control my asthma and essentially became homebound as a result. I even went to the media about the issue with my copay because no one should have to go through what I went through simply because of the prior authorization process. I got approved for Xolair to be given to me for free on March 4th due to a secondary application that my doctor filled out which was finally approved by insurance so I can get my medication again. I got my first shipment of Xolair again on March 13th and I was overjoyed that I can have control of my asthma again.

I'm one of the lucky ones who were to get through the seemingly endless prior authorization hoops that one must go through for medications, procedures, etc and if I didn't have my doctor & his team of nurses helping him along with self-advocates that I know in other states helping me with the process, I wouldn't have gotten my medication and I would be using a portable oxygen tank now; I'm 42 years old and I want to hold off on that for as long as possible so that I'm not forced into a more restrictive setting in order to control my asthma. I'm asking you to please consider approving 2280 and I'm available for questions if needed. Thank you for your time.