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To: "'Vicki.Schmidt@senate.ks.gov'" <Vicki.Schmidt@senate.ks.gov>
Subject: SB 438 prior authorization for mental health meds

Senator Schmidt,

I was not able to gather information on the issue of prior authorization in time to complete testimony, but I want you to know that when I asked about these issues from our PRTF and from SFCS foster care workers and case managers, I found some disturbing information.

The very short version is:

- What the PRTFs have to do to get prior authorization is incredible (to me, anyway!). Labs, scales, prior treatment appointment dates ... and the rules change and vary between MCOs... and it can take weeks to get the **meds IN THE PRTF**.
- When children are discharged from PRTF, sometimes the authorization for the med does not go with them and they have to wait for a new provider in a new location and a new preauthorization to be **on the very same medicine they were on in the PRTF**
- When children move between different foster homes the change in providers can cause similar challenges, the preauthorization requirements can cause delays and gaps in medicines (for those children most in need of medication stability). **We almost lost a long term placement just last week due to medication delays due to preauthorization challenges.**

This is one of those issues that has just never 'bubbled up' to me and therefore it took me longer to dig in and discover what was happening than I would have liked. We support this bill and if there is any help I can offer moving forward please let me know!

See you in the morning!

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