

Dear Senator,

My name is Patricia Wager I resided in Syracuse NY. I am 66 yrs old and I work for the Veterans Hosp. I have been suffering with a back / sciatic injury that I sustained in 2015 working as a physical therapy tech.

Through the years I have been to several drs, physical therapy, massage therapy, aqua therapy, etc. since 2015 I have relief sometimes and other times I have excruciating pain. Even as much as a cough will flare up my back and sciatic pain.

In April 2023, I had a very bad flareup again and my attorney had requested physical therapy which was never approved until Sept 2023. From April 2023 altogether I lost at least six weeks or more of work due to the pain that I was in.

Once again:

1/18/24 I had a major flareup which has pretty much left me bedridden for about three months.

2/6 /24 my attorney requested a hearing due to me being out of work with no pay.

2/26/24 attorney had to file a second request.

3/25/24 finally got a hearing after 7 weeks after initial request

My doctor has requested surgery; carrier denies based on a peer review that only states it is not "medically necessary.

Attorney had to ask for a hearing because of the Carrier's denial – it will be weeks before we get a date.

I had to request FMLA through my work. Also I requested for six weeks only advanced medical sickleave so I would get paid. I will need to pay back every bit of it per my employer. I have no choice but to go back to work now or I will lose my job.

My employer has agreed to let me work from home only for the next 30 days. After the 30 days, I have no idea how I'm going to be able to get to work and do my job. As it stands now even if my surgery is approved. I will not have the time to takeoff to have the surgery. The insurance company has now denied me twice to have my surgery.

From the looks of it , The new PAR process that the Board implemented for requesting medical treatment has placed a huge burden on the doctors. This seems to be what is causing the issues. It is taking too much time and is taking away from myself and I'm sure other patients that truly needs surgery.

I would like for you to consider doing away with the Par process as it is holding up necessary treatment for myself and others.

Thank you for your time

Patricia wager