

September 9, 2019

Dear Members of Congress:

The undersigned patient, physician, health care professional, and other health care stakeholder organizations strongly support the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2019* (H.R. 3107) recently introduced by Reps. Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS), and Ami Bera, MD (D-CA). This bipartisan legislation would help protect patients from unnecessary delays in care by streamlining and standardizing prior authorization under the Medicare Advantage program, providing much-needed oversight and transparency of health insurance for America's seniors. We urge you to join your colleagues in supporting this important legislation.

Based on a [consensus statement](#) on prior authorization reform adopted by leading national organizations representing physicians, medical groups, hospitals, pharmacists, and health plans, the legislation would facilitate electronic prior authorization, improve transparency for beneficiaries and providers alike, and increase Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) oversight on how Medicare Advantage plans use prior authorization. Specifically, the bill would:

- Create an electronic prior authorization program including the electronic transmission of prior authorization requests and responses and a real-time process for items and services that are routinely approved;
- Improve transparency by requiring plans to report to CMS on the extent of their use of prior authorization and the rate of approvals or denials;
- Require plans to adopt transparent prior authorization programs that are reviewed annually, adhere to evidence-based medical guidelines, and include continuity of care for individuals transitioning between coverage policies to minimize any disruption in care;
- Hold plans accountable for making timely prior authorization determinations and to provide rationales for denials; and
- Prohibit additional prior authorization for medically-necessary services performed during a surgical or invasive procedure that already received, or did not initially require, prior authorization.

The demand and need for such reforms is growing — particularly as more seniors choose Medicare Advantage for their health insurance needs. According to a recently released Kaiser Family Foundation report, “*A Dozen Facts About Medicare Advantage in 2019*,” Medicare Advantage enrollment has nearly doubled in a decade. One-third (34%) of all Medicare beneficiaries — 22 million people — are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans, and nearly four out of five enrollees (79%) are in plans that require prior authorization for some services. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans will rise to nearly half of all Medicare beneficiaries (about 47%) by 2029. Recognizing the need to protect a growing number of Medicare beneficiaries, more than 100 members of Congress called for such reforms in a [letter](#) last year to the CMS.

For our seniors — and as representatives of organizations seeking to protect patients from delays in care and relieve unnecessary administrative burdens that impede delivery of timely care—we are committed to advancing this legislation in Congress and ask that you join Representatives DelBene, Kelly, Marshall, and Bera in co-sponsoring H.R. 3107 and securing its enactment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

ACCSES

Aimed Alliance

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Balanced Pain Management

Alliance for Patient Access

Alliance of Specialty Medicine

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Impact Movement

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

American Academy of Dermatology Association

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Ophthalmology

American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

American Academy of PAs

American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

American Academy of Sleep Medicine

American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

American Association of Clinical Urologists

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

American Association of Neurological Surgeons

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

American Association of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

American Association on Health and Disability

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association

American Brain Coalition

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Clinical Laboratory Association

American Clinical Neurophysiology Society

American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

American College of Cardiology

American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiation Oncology  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Glaucoma Society  
American Group Psychotherapy Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Radiation Oncology  
American Society for Radiology and Oncology  
American Society for Surgery of the Hand  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Neuroimaging  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Society of Retina Specialists  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Spinal Injury Association  
American Urological Association  
American Uveitis Society  
American Vein & Lymphatic Society  
American-European Congress of Ophthalmic Surgery  
America's Physician Groups  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Molecular Pathology  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Black Cardiologists  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology  
Beyond Type 1  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Caregiver Action Network  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Children with Diabetes  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Clinician Task Force  
CMSC- Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers  
Coalition For Headache And Migraine Patients  
College Diabetes Network  
College of American Pathologists  
Community Oncology Alliance  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Cornea Society  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Delaware Academy of Ophthalmology  
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  
Derma Care Access Network  
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition  
DiabetesSisters  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Dystonia Advocacy Network  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Eye and Contact Lens Association  
Eye Bank Association of America

Federation of American Hospitals  
Free2Care  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
Global Liver Institute  
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
IFAA - International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders  
International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Medical Group Management Association  
METAvivor  
Movement Disorders Policy Coalition  
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics & Prosthetics  
National Association of Rural Health Clinics  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network  
National Diabetes Volunteer Leadership Council  
National Health Council  
National Infusion Center Association  
National Lipid Association  
National Medical Association, Ophthalmology Section  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Pancreas Foundation  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
NephCure Kidney International  
North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society  
Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group  
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society  
Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health  
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease  
Partnership to Improve Patient Care  
Prevent Blindness  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Remote Cardiac Services Provider Group

Renal Physicians Association  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
RetireSafe  
Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Gynecologic Oncology  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Spine Intervention Society  
The Headache and Migraine Policy Forum  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
The Marfan Foundation  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Retina Society  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Tourette Association of America  
Treatment Communities of America  
Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation  
United Spinal Association  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association

Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology  
Alabama Society for the Rheumatic Diseases  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Neurosurgical Society of Alabama  
Alaska Rheumatology Alliance  
Alaska Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Denali Oncology Group Alaska Chapter ASCO  
Arizona Medical Association  
Arizona Neurosurgical Society  
Arizona United Rheumatology Alliance  
The Arizona Clinical Oncology Society  
Arkansas Medical Society  
Arkansas Ophthalmological Society  
Arkansas Rheumatology Association  
Association of Northern California Oncologists  
California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
California Association of Neurological Surgeons  
California Medical Association  
California Rheumatology Alliance  
Medical Oncology Association of Southern California, Inc.  
Cedars/Aspens, non-profit society of ophthalmic surgeon educators  
Colorado Medical Society

Colorado Neurosurgical Society  
Colorado Rheumatology Association  
Colorado Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Connecticut Rheumatology Association  
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians  
Connecticut State Medical Society  
Delaware Society for Clinical Oncology  
Delaware State Neurosurgical Society  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Florida Medical Association  
Florida Neurosurgical Society  
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology  
Florida Society of Ophthalmology  
Florida Society of Rheumatology  
Georgia Society of Clinical Oncology  
Georgia Society of Rheumatology  
Medical Association of Georgia  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology  
Association of Idaho Rheumatologists  
Idaho Medical Association  
Idaho Society of Ophthalmology  
Illinois Medical Oncology Society  
Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Illinois State Neurosurgical Society  
Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology  
Indiana Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Indiana Oncology Society  
Iowa Medical Society  
Iowa Oncology Society  
Midwest Neurosurgical Society  
Kansas Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Kansas Hospital Association  
Kansas Medical Society  
LeadingAge Kansas  
Midwest Rheumatology Association  
Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Kentucky Association of Medical Oncology  
Kentucky Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Louisiana Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Louisiana Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Louisiana Neurosurgical Society

Louisiana State Medical Society  
Rheumatology Alliance of Louisiana  
Maine Medical Association  
Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Maryland Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Maryland DC Society of Clinical Oncology  
Maryland Society for the Rheumatic Diseases  
Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Michigan Society of Hematology & Oncology  
Michigan State Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Minnesota Neurosurgical Society  
Mississippi Arthritis and Rheumatism Society  
Mississippi Oncology Society  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri Oncology Society  
Missouri Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Montana Neurosurgical Society  
Montana State Oncology Society  
Nebraska Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nebraska Rheumatology Society  
Nevada State Medical Association  
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society  
New Hampshire Medical Society  
Medical Oncology Society of New Jersey  
Medical Society of New Jersey  
New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology  
New Jersey Neurosurgical Society  
The Medical Oncology Society of New Jersey  
New Mexico Medical Society  
Empire State Hematology & Oncology Society  
Empire State Hematology and Oncology Society  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
New York State Neurosurgical Society  
New York State Ophthalmological Society  
New York State Rheumatology Society  
North Carolina Medical Society  
North Carolina Rheumatology Association



North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
North Dakota Medical Association  
North Dakota Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Ohio Association of Rheumatology  
Ohio Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society  
Ohio Ophthalmological Society  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Ohio State Neurosurgical Society  
Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology  
Oklahoma Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Oklahoma Neurosurgical Society  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology  
Oregon Medical Association  
Oregon Rheumatology Alliance  
Oregon Society of Medical Oncology  
Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Association  
Pennsylvania Rheumatology Society  
Philadelphia Rheumatism Society  
Pittsburgh Ophthalmology Society  
Pennsylvania Society of Oncology & Hematology  
The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania  
Puerto Rico's Hematology and Medical Oncology Association  
Rhode Island Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
Rhode Island Neurosurgical Society  
Rhode Island Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
South Carolina Medical Association  
South Carolina Oncology Society  
South Carolina Rheumatism Society  
South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology  
South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Tennessee Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Tennessee Rheumatology Society  
State of Texas Association of Rheumatologists  
Texas Medical Association  
Texas Ophthalmological Association  
Society of Utah Medical Oncologists  
Utah Medical Association  
Utah Ophthalmology Society

Vermont Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Virginia Association of Hematologist & Oncologist  
Virginia Chapter, American College of Cardiology  
Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Neurosurgical Society of the Virginias  
Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons  
Washington Rheumatology Alliance  
Washington State Medical Association  
Washington State Medical Oncology Society  
West Virginia Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons  
West Virginia State Medical Association  
West Virginia State Rheumatology Society  
Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology  
Wisconsin Association of Hematology & Oncology  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wisconsin Rheumatology Association  
Wisconsin State Neurosurgical Society  
Wyoming County Community Health System  
Wyoming Medical Society  
Wyoming Ophthalmological Society