

Cosponsor H.R. 3107, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2019

Sending Office: Honorable Roger W. Marshall
Sent By: Charlotte.Pineda@mail.house.gov

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Dear Colleague:

Please join us and cosponsor bipartisan legislation that will streamline and standardize the prior authorization (PA) process under Medicare Advantage (MA).

PA is a tool used by insurers to reduce spending from improper payments and unnecessary care by requiring physicians and other health care professionals to get pre-approval for medical services. But it's not without fault. The current system of unconfirmed faxes of a patient's medical information or phone calls by clinicians takes precious time away from delivering quality and timely care. PA continues to be the #1 administrative burden identified by providers groups and nearly four out of five MA enrollees are subject to unnecessary delays. In 2018, HHS' Office of the Inspector General raised concerns after [an audit](#) revealed that MA plans overturned 75% of requests that were originally denied.

Health plans and providers agree that the process can be improved and agreed on principles in a [consensus statement](#). Building on these principles, H.R. 3107 would streamline approvals by moving PA to an electronic process as well as identify items and services that are routinely approved – initially and on appeal – and adopt real-time decision making. Cost-saving tools like PA are antiquated compared to innovative models like value-based arrangements (VBA). Until VBA can be widely adopted – provided there are changes in statute – stakeholders and the Trump administration agree to improve these cost-saving tools and put [patients over paperwork](#).

H.R. 3107 is supported by over 410 organizations representing patients, providers, IT groups, and companies across the country. The Small Business Committee held a [hearing](#) on how PA negatively impacts small practice groups and submitted a [letter](#) to Ways and Means leadership in support of the bill.

For more information on the bill, including our draft [Amendment in Nature of a Substitute](#), please contact Kyle Hill (Rep. DelBene) at kyle.hill@mail.house.gov, Kevin Dawson (Rep. Kelly) at

kevin.dawson@mail.house.gov, Charlotte Pineda (Rep. Marshall) at charlotte.pineda@mail.house.gov, and Colleen Nguyen (Rep. Bera) at colleen.nguyen@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Suzan DelBene

Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.

Member of Congress

Mike Kelly

Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.

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