



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Physician Coalition Applauds Ways and Means Committee for Taking Action on Prior Authorization Reform Legislation

WASHINGTON, DC—The Regulatory Relief Coalition (RRC) — a group of national physician specialty organizations advocating for reduced regulatory burdens that interfere with patient care — enthusiastically applauds the House Ways and Means Committee for including provisions of *the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*¹ in legislation that advanced out of the committee today.

The RRC greatly appreciates Chairman **Jason Smith** (R-MO) and Ranking Member **Richard Neal** (D-MA) for their efforts to ensure that Medicare Advantage (MA) policies are not a barrier to timely and equitable access to care for the patients our members serve. The RRC also applauds the leadership, insight, and tenacity of Ways and Means Committee members, Reps. **Mike Kelly** (R-PA) and **Suzan DelBene** (D-WA) for advancing these prior authorization provisions.

“We are pleased that the Ways and Means Committee has advanced legislation that incorporates broadly supported prior authorization reforms. The drastic increase in prior authorization utilization by Medicare Advantage plans has become untenable, and reform is desperately needed to provide relief to patients and physicians from delays and denials for medical necessary care,” said **George A. Williams**, MD, senior secretary for Advocacy of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. “We’re urging Congress to seize on this momentum and enact commonsense prior authorization reforms into law.”

Russell R. Lonser, MD, FAANS, chair of the department of neurosurgery at The Ohio State University and chair of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Washington Committee, added, “The rampant overuse of prior authorization continues to cause inappropriate delays and denials of medical treatments that our seniors need, and we appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Ways and Means Committee to advance reforms that enjoy broad bipartisan support in the House and Senate.” Dr. Lonser concluded, “Patients can ill afford to wait any longer for policymakers to hold Medicare Advantage plans accountable, and America’s neurosurgeons urge Congress to get this legislation across the finish line this year.”

¹ The bill has not yet been introduced in the 118th Congress. In the 117th Congress, the House Committee on Ways and Means advanced the bill ([H.R. 3173](#)) out of committee, and on Sept. 14, 2022, the full House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill by voice vote.

The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act will reduce barriers to care, lessen provider burden, and help ensure that Medicare beneficiaries who enroll in MA plans have the same access to Medicare-covered items and services as beneficiaries who opt for traditional Medicare.

The RRC is a leading advocate for reforming PA in the MA program on behalf of the more than 28 million seniors enrolled in MA plans and the providers who care for them. The coalition's efforts were critical in bringing multiple CMS-proposed rules forward and advancing the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*, which finished the 117th Congress after passing the House with 380 combined co-sponsors — [53](#) senators and [327](#) representatives. Along with the RRC, more than [500](#) organizations representing patients, health care providers, the medical technology and biopharmaceutical industry, health plans, and others endorsed the legislation.

The coalition looks forward to continuing to work with Congress to protect patients from unnecessary delays in care by enacting these prior authorization reforms into law.

More information about the RRC and the legislation is available at www.regrelief.org.

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