

Support the Seniors' Act

The Regulatory Relief Coalition (RRC) is a group of national physician specialty organizations and allies advocating for regulatory burden reduction in Medicare so physicians can spend more time treating patients.



The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (Seniors' Act)

The *Seniors' Act* ([S. 4532](#) / [H.R. 8702](#)) is bipartisan legislation that would protect seniors from unnecessary delays and denials of medically necessary care by streamlining and standardizing prior authorization (PA) in Medicare Advantage (MA).

At introduction on June 12, 2024, the bill had **130 House** and **42 Senate** original cosponsors, and hundreds of endorsing organizations.

Senate Champions

Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS)
Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ)
John Thune (R-SD)
Sherrod Brown (D-OH)



House Champions

Mike Kelly (R-PA)
Suzan DelBene (D-WA)
Ami Bera, MD (D-CA)
Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN)

Additional Resources

[Bill Text](#) • [Section-by-Section Summary](#) • [Cosponsor List](#) • [Endorsement List](#)

The *Seniors' Act* Key Provisions

The *Seniors' Act* would put patients over paperwork by **modernizing the PA process, providing transparency and additional oversight** of the MA program. The bill would:

- Establish e-PA for MA plans, including standardization of transactions and clinical attachments.
- Increase transparency around MA prior authorization requirements and their use.
- Clarify CMS' authority to establish timeframes for e-PA requests, including expedited determinations, real-time decisions for routinely approved items and services and any other PA request.
- Expand beneficiary protections to improve enrollee experiences and outcomes.
- Require HHS and other agencies to report to Congress on program integrity efforts and other ways to further improve the e-PA process.

IT'S TIME TO PASS THE *SENIORS' ACT* IN THE 118TH CONGRESS!

Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation Supported by Every Type of Health Care Stakeholder

- The legislation is supported by hundreds of national and state organizations representing patients, health plans, health care providers, the medical device and biopharmaceutical industry, information technology software companies and more.

Codifies CMS Rules & Expands Transparency Provisions, Ensuring that Rules have Force of Law

- Read Press Release on [e-PA Final Rule](#) and Press Release on [MA Rule](#)

Bill Champions Made Mindful Adjustments to the Bill to Propel Passage, Reduce Score

- Following the CMS final rules, the bill sponsors replaced the remaining scoring provisions with mindful, budget-neutral policies.
- The new bill would require CMS to issue a report on implementing real-time decisions and it clarifies CMS's authority to establish shorter timeframes for PA decision-making.

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Determined MA Plans Deny Access for Seniors

- The OIG has repeatedly called out the overuse and abuse of PA by MA plans.
- In 2018, the OIG found that MA plans overturned 75% of *their own* PA denials.
- MA plans deny millions of PA requests yearly. In 2022, the OIG reported that an estimated 13% of those denials were for services deemed medically necessary.
- Read the [2018](#) and [2022](#) OIG Reports and the [March 2024 Impact Brief](#).

"This is a pivotal moment for enhancing patients' access to care. We are optimistic that this will be the year Congress acts to safeguard timely care for our seniors."

— Russell R. Lonser, MD, FAANS,

American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Congress of Neurological Surgeons

RRC Members & Allies

RRC MEMBERS



RRC ALLIES



For more information regarding RRC or the *Seniors' Act*, visit regrelief.org or email Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com.

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