



September 6, 2019

The Honorable Ami Bera
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Marshall
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bera, DelBene, Kelly, and Marshall:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 134,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write in strong support of the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2019* (HR 3107).

We appreciate your bipartisan work to guard Medicare Advantage patients from unnecessary delays in care by streamlining and standardizing prior authorization under the Medicare Advantage program. HR 3107 calls for prior authorization to be transparent, standardized, and universally electronic to promote efficiency and reduce administrative burdens in the Medicare Advantage program.

Family physician practices continue to be deeply overburdened by administrative functions at the point of care and after patient care hours. The average family physician has contractual relationship with 7 or more payers. According to a 2019 AAFP member survey, the top priority for the AAFP is to reduce physicians' administrative and regulatory burden. Fully 74% of respondents said the time spent on administrative tasks has increased in the past year.

Thankfully, your legislation helps address burdensome prior authorizations in the Medicare Advantage program. The manual, time-consuming processes currently used in prior authorization programs burden family physicians, divert valuable resources from direct patient care, and can inadvertently lead to negative patient outcomes by delaying the start or continuation of necessary treatment.

We appreciate the opportunity to strongly support your bill. Please contact Stephanie Quinn, Director, Division of Government Relations at 202-655-4906 squinn@aafp.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Munger, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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