May 12, 2021

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
U.S. House of Representatives
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ami Bera, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
172 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Larry Bucshon, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act

Dear Reps. DelBene, Kelly, Bera and Bucshon,

On behalf of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), we are pleased to endorse your legislation, the “Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act.”

As you know, prior authorization is a cumbersome process that requires physicians to obtain pre-approval for medical treatments or tests before rendering care to their patients. The process for obtaining this approval is lengthy and typically requires physicians or their staff to spend the equivalent of two or more days each week negotiating with insurance companies — time that would better be spent taking care of patients. Patients are now experiencing significant barriers to medically necessary care due to prior authorization requirements for items and services that are eventually routinely approved.

We are pleased that your bill will help reduce the administrative burdens of prior authorization in the Medicare Advantage program by streamlining prior authorization, minimizing the use of prior authorization for services that are routinely approved and increasing transparency.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. The AANS and the CNS look forward to continuing to work with you to gain passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Regis W. Haid, Jr., MD, President
American Association of Neurological Surgeons

Brian L. Hoh, MD, President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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