



# neurosurgery

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## **Neurosurgery Applauds House Markup of Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act**

**Washington, DC** – Today, the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Health passed the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act ([H.R. 3514](#) / [S. 1816](#)) during a long-awaited markup – a significant step forward for bipartisan legislation aimed at streamlining prior authorization requirements in Medicare Advantage (MA).

Introduced by Representatives Mike Kelly (R-PA), Suzan DelBene (D-WA), John Joyce, MD (R-PA), and Ami Bera, MD (D-CA), along with Senators Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS), and Mark Warner (D-VA), the Seniors' Act would modernize the MA prior authorization process by establishing electronic prior authorization requirements, strengthening transparency and accountability, and streamlining determinations for medically necessary care. The bill's reforms would improve access to care for more than 35 million seniors, individuals with disabilities, and veterans enrolled in an MA plan.

Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, FAANS, Chair of the Washington Committee for the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS), issued the following statement:

"Today's markup is an important milestone for legislation that has earned extraordinary support from patients, physicians, hospitals, health systems, and policymakers across the political spectrum. It is rare to see a health care proposal of this scope and significance achieve the level of bipartisan and stakeholder consensus that the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act has generated."

"For neurosurgical patients, prior authorization delays can mean prolonged pain, disability, or a risk to life. From brain tumors to seizures, stroke and spinal cord compression, timely intervention remains our best hope to preserve function and quality of life. This legislation represents a thoughtful and pragmatic effort to modernize prior authorization and improve accountability within the Medicare Advantage program."

"While there is still work ahead in the legislative process, we are encouraged to see Congress taking a significant step forward by advancing this legislation through the Committee process. We thank Representatives Mike Kelly, Suzan DelBene, John Joyce, and Ami Bera, as well as the leadership and members of the House Committee on Energy

and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Health, for their commitment to improving patient access to timely, medically necessary care.

“We remain especially grateful for Congress’s engagement with the AANS and CNS throughout this process and for its willingness to work collaboratively with physicians to ensure prior authorization serves patients and no American suffers preventable neurologic injury due to delays in necessary care. As surgeons, we are enormously proud of our advances against neurologic disease – this legislation helps ensure patients benefit from that promise.”

The Improving Seniors’ Timely Access to Care Act is one of the most broadly supported health care proposals in Congress, having garnered overwhelming bipartisan support and endorsements from hundreds of patient advocacy organizations, provider groups, hospitals, and health care stakeholders nationwide.

The advancement of this legislation builds on years of collaborative advocacy by the Regulatory Relief Coalition and its members, including the AANS and CNS as founding organizations. To mark today’s milestone, the Coalition issued a separate statement applauding the Committee’s action. To read the statement, [click here](#).

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*The **American Association of Neurological Surgeons** (AANS), founded in 1931, and the **Congress of Neurological Surgeons** (CNS), founded in 1951, are the two largest scientific and educational associations for neurosurgical professionals in the world. These groups represent over 10,000 neurosurgeons worldwide. Neurological surgery is the medical specialty concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of disorders that affect the entire nervous system, including the spinal column, spinal cord, brain and peripheral nerves. For more information, please visit [www.aans.org](http://www.aans.org), [www.cns.org](http://www.cns.org) and [www.neurosurgery.org](http://www.neurosurgery.org).*