



July 21, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith

Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal

Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House
1129 House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vern Buchanan

Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett

Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House
1129 House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert

Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Terri Sewell

Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House
1129 House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Subcommittee Hearing on Medicare Advantage: Past Lessons, Present Insights, Future Opportunities on July 22, 2025

Dear Chairmen Smith, Buchanan, and Schweikert and Ranking Members Neal, Doggett, and Sewell:

On behalf of the Regulatory Relief Coalition (RRC), a coalition of national physician organizations seeking to reduce regulatory burdens that interfere with patient care, we are pleased that the House Committee on Ways and Means is holding a joint Health and Oversight Subcommittee hearing on July 22, 2025, titled, "Medicare Advantage: Past Lessons, Present Insights, Future Opportunities." We thank you for your work to investigate the serious and persistent issue of administrative burden in Medicare Advantage (MA) due to the overuse and abuse of utilization management tools like prior authorization.

We greatly appreciate your committee's stalwart efforts to ensure that MA policies are not a barrier to timely and equitable access to care for the patients our members serve by passing the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* ("Seniors' Act") in the 117th and



118th Congresses – bicameral, bipartisan, commonsense legislative reform based on multiple studies of egregious MA behavior. 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 their championship of the *Seniors’ Act* (H.R. 3514). Already, 145 House members, including 29 Ways and Means members¹, and 53 Senators support the legislation in the 119th Congress.

Last Congress, the bill was supported by a super majority of members in the House (232) and unanimously passed the House in 2022. While Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scoring prevented the bill’s passage in the 117th Congress, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized rules that implemented major provisions of the bill in January 2024, reducing the score significantly. The 118th Congress House and Senate bills, made further, modest changes to the legislation to further reduce the score, and successfully achieved a preliminary CBO score of zero in October 2024.

Enactment of this legislation would modernize and streamline the prior authorization (PA) process for the nearly 32 million Americans currently enrolled in MA plans. Along with the RRC, [hundreds](#) of organizations representing patients, health care physicians and other clinicians, the medical technology and biopharmaceutical industry, health plans and other organizations have endorsed this legislation. It is time for this bill to become the law of the land.

We greatly appreciate your committee’s continued efforts to ensure MA policies are not a barrier to timely and equitable access to care for the patients our members serve. Congress can protect our nation’s seniors from wrongfully delayed or denied care by requiring proper transparency and oversight of prior authorization in the MA program. If adopted, the *Seniors’ Act* will reduce barriers to care, decrease provider burden, and help ensure Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in MA plans have the same access to Medicare-covered items and services as beneficiaries who opt for traditional Medicare.

The RRC looks forward to assisting you with this and other initiatives aimed at getting our patients the care they need when they need it. Please contact Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com or Natalie.Keller@PowersLaw.com. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

¹ Reps. Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19), Don Beyer (D-VA-8), Brendan Boyle (D-PA-2), Mike Carey (R-OH-15), Judy Chu (D-CA-28), Suzan DelBene (D-WA-1), Dwight Evans (D-PA-3), Randy Feenstra (R-IA-4), Michelle Fischbach (R-MN-7), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1), Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34), Mike Kelly (R-PA-16), Darin LaHood (R-IL-16), John Larson (D-CT-1), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY-11), Carol Miller (R-WV-1), Blake Moore (R-UT-1), Gwen Moore (D-WI-4), Greg Murphy (R-NC-3), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-19), Linda Sanchez (D-CA-38), Brad Schneider (D-IL-10), Terri Sewell (D-AL-7), Adrian Smith (R-NE-3), Lloyd Smucker (R-PA-11), Greg Steube (R-FL-17), Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24), Beth Van Duyne (R-TX-24), and Rudy Yakym (R-IN-2)

RRC Members

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Osteopathic Association
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RRC Allies

The National Association for Proton Therapy
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