



neurosurgery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2026

Contact

Milan Reed, MS
Manager, Communications
(202) 446-2028
mreed@neurosurgery.org

Neurosurgery Applauds House Ways and Means Passage of Medicare Advantage Prior Authorization Reform

Washington, DC — Today, the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means [advanced](#) the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act ([H.R. 3514](#) / [S. 1816](#)), marking another significant step forward for bipartisan legislation to modernize prior authorization requirements in Medicare Advantage (MA). The bill passed the Committee by a recorded vote of 42-0.

After [issuing a statement](#) in support of the bill's advancement through the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health last month, Washington Committee Chair Alexander A. Khalessi, MD, MBA, FAANS, released the following statement regarding today's markup by the Committee on Ways and Means.

"Today's markup by the House Committee on Ways and Means represents another significant milestone for legislation that has earned extraordinary bipartisan support across Congress and throughout the health care community. We commend Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal, and especially the House sponsors Representatives Kelly, DelBene, Joyce, and Bera, and the members of the Committee for continuing to advance this important legislation."

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.

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 bill, which is also referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, advanced through that committee's Subcommittee on Health last month.

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](#).

###

*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, www.cns.org and www.neurosurgery.org.*