

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 15, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As the lead sponsors of the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 3173), we commend your leadership in advancing our legislation to a unanimous voice vote on the House floor on September 14, 2022. Given the significant bipartisan support for this legislation, we ask you to prioritize including this bill in any year-end legislative package under development by the House and Senate.

We are steadfast in our commitment to ensure that patients do not needlessly face barriers to medically necessary care created by some Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, which are overusing or misusing prior authorization. Indeed, this year, the Office of the Inspector General and Government Accountability Office both raised concerns about prior authorization in Medicare — which have been validated by ongoing reports in the media about MA plans.

Medicare Advantage is growing exponentially and will soon insure more than half of all Medicare beneficiaries with more than 28 million people enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. To ensure that the MA program can best serve our seniors, we strongly believe that the time is now for Congress to do right by America's seniors and adopt the commonsense reforms included in H.R. 3173.

As you know, the hallmarks of this legislation are that MA plans must establish electric prior authorization programs, provide real-time decisions in response to requests for items and services that are routinely approved, and provide data about their use of prior authorization to the public.

It is rare for legislation to enjoy such overwhelming approval from members of Congress. Furthermore, this legislation is endorsed by hundreds of stakeholder organizations representing patients, providers, the medical technology and biopharmaceutical industry, and some MA plans — strong evidence of the bill's consensus-driven, bipartisan, reasonable approach to improving access to health care for our seniors.

This legislation is exemplary in its support from:

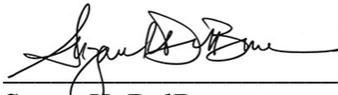
- 506 endorsing organizations
- 327 House and 49 Senate cosponsors
- 38 House Ways and Means Committee members
- 51 House Energy and Commerce Committee members
- 9 Senate Finance Committee members
- 41 Problem Solvers Caucus members
- 12 GOP Doctors Caucus members
- 46 Congressional Black Caucus members
- 26 Congressional Hispanic Caucus members

- 56 Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus members

This legislation is at a critical juncture. Let's not let this opportunity to adopt strong, bipartisan policy slip away. We stand with you to ensure that patients do not face unnecessary delays and denials of medically necessary care due to MA plans' prior authorization requirements and ask that you continue your leadership by including this legislation in any must-pass legislation this year.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter.

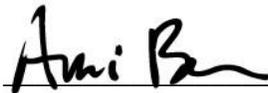
Sincerely,



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress