RRC
Regulatory Relief Coalition
Protecting Patients' Timely Access To Care

November 17, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Request to Pass the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (H.R. 3514/S. 1816)

Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, and Leaders Thune and Schumer:

Following the midterm elections, Congress has an important opportunity to work together in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to advance broadly supported, strongly endorsed, no-cost legislation before the end of the year. As such, we strongly urge you to advance the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* (H.R. 3514/S. 1816) in any year-end legislative package under development by the House and Senate leadership.

Passed unanimously by two House committees this year, the legislation was created with the basic policy proposition that Congress can and should ensure proper transparency and oversight of the Medicare Advantage (MA) program to protect our nation's seniors. The bill establishes an electronic prior authorization program in MA and requires MA plans to provide data about their use of prior authorization to the public – commonsense, consensus driven, and broadly supported policy ideas – all of which the Congressional Budget Office determined last year to be a ZERO cost to taxpayers.

Opportunity to Deliver for Medicare Seniors

With MA growing exponentially — the program now insures more than half of all Medicare beneficiaries— the time to act is now. More than 35 million people enrolled in an MA plan should be assured that they will receive timely access to care without unnecessary barriers and delays.[1] The opportunity is now — before the end of the year — to include this legislation in any must-pass legislation this year.

Broad Support Exists for Seniors Bill

[1] KFF, *Medicare Advantage in 2026: Enrollment Update and Key Trends* (June 5, 2026).

This legislation is unique in its solid bipartisanship, extensive support among ***all*** sectors of the healthcare community, and overwhelming support in Congress.

- Clearing both House committees of jurisdiction with unanimous bipartisan support, the bill passed the Ways and Means Committee by a vote of 42–0 in July 2026 and and 45–0 in the Energy and Commerce Committee on July 21.
- The bill has 72 co-sponsors in the Senate, and 312 co-sponsors in the House.
- The legislation garnered support from over 300 endorsing organizations representing patients, providers, the medical technology and biopharmaceutical industry, and several Medicare Advantage plans.

Facts are Clear: MA Seniors Deserve, Need Transparency and Federal Oversight of MA

The legislation puts patients first by ensuring they do not needlessly face barriers to medically necessary care created by some MA plans that overuse or misuse prior authorization.

- The HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that 13% of prior authorization requests denied by MA plans met Medicare coverage rules (OIG, OEI-09-18-00260, April 2022).[2]
- In June 2026, OIG reported that MA plans overturned 95% of appealed skilled nursing facility denials, and that the largest MA plans denied long-term acute care and inpatient rehabilitation requests at some of the highest rates.[3]
- A 2024 Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations report likewise found that the three largest MA insurers used prior authorization to deny post-acute care. MA plans made nearly 53 million prior authorization determinations in 2024, and more than 80% of appealed denials were overturned — yet only about one in ten denials is ever appealed. These problems persist despite the voluntary pledge health insurers announced in June 2025 to streamline prior authorization.[4]
- In a December 2025 survey of 1,000 physicians, the American Medical Association found that 95% report prior authorization delays access to necessary care, 79% report patients abandoning treatment altogether, and more than one in four (26%) report that prior authorization has led to a serious adverse event — yet only 33% believe the insurers' pledge will make a meaningful difference for patients and physicians.[5]
- The Medical Group Management Association's April 2026 Annual Regulatory Burden Report likewise found that 90% of practices said prior authorization requirements increased in the past year, and Medicare Advantage and commercial plans were cited as the most burdensome payers.[6]

Please include the Seniors Act in any end-of-year legislative action on the House or Senate floor or in any year-end package of legislation. Thank you for considering this urgent matter. For further information, contact Peggy Tighe at Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com.

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[2] HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG), OEI-09-18-00260 (Apr. 2022).
[3] HHS OIG, OEI-09-24-00331 and OEI-09-24-00330 (June 2026).
[4] S. Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Majority Staff Report, *Refusal of Recovery* (Oct. 17, 2024); KFF, *Medicare Advantage Insurers Made Nearly 53 Million Prior Authorization Determinations in 2024* (Jan. 28, 2026); AHIP, Press Release (June 23, 2025).
[5] American Medical Association, *2025 AMA Prior Authorization Physician Survey* (released May 13, 2026).
[6] Medical Group Management Association, *2026 Regulatory Burden Report* (Apr. 9, 2026).

Sincerely,

Regulatory Relief Coalition Members
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Cardiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Osteopathic Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Medical Group Management Association
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Heart Rhythm Advocates

Regulatory Relief Coalition Allies
American Podiatric Medical Association

Attachment: List of Endorsing Organizations

Cc:

Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Brett Guthrie and Ranking Member Frank Pallone
Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith and Ranking Member Richard Neal
Senate Finance Committee Chair Mike Crapo and Ranking Member Ron Wyden
Bill Sponsors Senators Roger Marshall, MD and Mark Warner, and Representatives Mike Kelly, Suzan DelBene, Ami Bera, MD, and John Joyce, MD

The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2025 (H.R. 3514/S. 1816) List of Over 200 Supporting Organizations

National Supporters:

Alabama Association of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
Alliance for Physical Therapy Quality and Innovation
Alliance of Specialty Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus (AAPOS)
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons
American Association of Neuromuscular and Diagnostic Medicine
American Association of Ophthalmic Oncology and Pathology
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)
American Association on Health and Disability
American Clinical Laboratory Association
American Clinical Neurophysiology Society
American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest Physicians
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Gastroenterology
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics
American College of Mohs Surgery
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiation Oncology
American College of Radiology
American College of Surgeons
American Epilepsy Society
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)
American Geriatrics Society
American Glaucoma Society
American Medical Association
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
American Medical Women's Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Ophthalmological Society
American Ophthalmological Society (AOS)

American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
American Osteopathic Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA)
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society for Surgery of the Hand Professional Organization
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology
American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Society of Transplant Surgeons
American Urogynecologic Society
American Urological Association
American Venous Forum
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
Arizona Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons (ASEPS)
Arkansas Ophthalmological Society
Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Cancer Care Centers (ACCC)
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO)
Blood Cancer United
Bronx Ophthalmic Surgeons Society
California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
California Hospital Association
CardioVascular Coalition
Cascadia Healthcare
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
College of American Pathologists
Community Oncology Alliance (COA)
Connecticut Rheumatology Association
Dialysis Vascular Access Coalition
Direct Primary Care Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Evergreen At Home
Eye Bank Association of America
Florida Society of Clinical Oncology
Florida Society of Ophthalmology
Georgia Society of Ophthalmology

Hawaii Ophthalmological Society
Healthcare Business Management Association
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Healthcare Leadership Council
Heart Failure Society of America
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Illinois Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
Illinois State Medical Society
Indiana Academy of Ophthalmology
Infusion Access Foundation
Inseparable
Insulet
Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology
Kansas Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
LeadingAge Colorado
LeadingAge Kansas
LeadingAge Massachusetts
LeadingAge New Jersey & Delaware
LeadingAge Pennsylvania
LeadingAge South Carolina
Louisiana Academy of eye physicians and surgeons
LUNGevity Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
LWV Westwood Walpole Dedham
Maine Medical Association
Maine Osteopathic Association
Maine Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Maryland Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons (MSEPS)
Massachusetts Medical Society
Massachusetts Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Medical Society of Sedgwick County
Medical Society of the State of New York
Michigan State Medical Society
Midwest Association for Medical Equipment Services & Supplies (MAMES)
Minnesota Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Mississippi Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Missouri Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Montana Academy of Ophthalmology
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association for Proton Therapy
National Association of ACOs
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Spine Specialists

National Infusion Center Association
National Organization of Rheumatology Management
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Rural Health Association
NC Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology
New York Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons
NHSEPS
NJ Academy of Ophthalmology
North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society
North Carolina Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society
Office-Based Facility Association
Ohio Hematology Oncology Society
Ohio Ophthalmologic Society
Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology
Oncology Nursing Society
Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology
Orthopaedic Society of Oklahoma (OSOK)
Outpatient Endovascular and Interventional Society
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology
Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association (PHIMA)
Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology
Physician-Led Healthcare for America (PHA)
Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association
Premier Inc.
Prevent Blindness
Prostate Network
Psychotherapy Action Network (PsiAN)
Puerto Rico Society of Ophthalmology
Renal Physicians Association
RetireSafe
Rheumatology Alliance of Indiana
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Hospital Medicine
South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology
South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology
Southwest Medical Equipment Suppliers Association (SWMESA)
Spina Bifida Association
Susan G. Komen
Tennessee Medical Association
Tennessee Society of Eye Surgeons

Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons
Texas Orthopaedic Association
Texas Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
The American Glaucoma Society
The Cornea Society
The OrthoForum
The Retina Society
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Tourette Association of America
Triage Cancer
Trinity Health
Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Vit Buckle Society
Washington Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
Washington DC Metropolitan Ophthalmologic Society
Washington State Hospital Association
WellSpan Health
Wisconsin Academy of Ophthalmology
Women In Ophthalmology