July 28, 2022

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine writes to express support for your legislation, the \textit{Getting Over Lengthy Delays in Care As Required by Doctors (GOLD CARD) Act of 2022} (H.R. 7995). The Alliance’s mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance appreciates that the \textit{GOLD CARD Act} would improve access to timely medical care by providing a pathway to exempt qualifying physicians from prior authorization requirements under Medicare Advantage (MA) plans.

As you know, prior authorization is a cumbersome process that requires physicians to obtain pre-approval for medical treatments or tests before rendering care to their patients. The process for obtaining this approval is lengthy and typically requires physicians or their staff to spend the equivalent of two or more days each week negotiating with insurance companies — time that would better be spent taking care of patients. Patients are now experiencing significant barriers to medically necessary care due to prior authorization requirements for items and services that are eventually routinely approved. H.R. 7995 will help expedite this process in the case of physicians for whom at least 90 percent of their prior authorization requests submitted to a plan in the preceding year were approved.
The Alliance of Specialty Medicine supports opportunities to improve the prior authorization process to ensure safe, timely, and affordable access to care for patients. We look forward to working with you to advance legislation which would reduce the administrative burdens of prior authorization in the MA program.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
National Association of Spine Specialists