



June 12, 2025

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

Ensuring patients receive the care they need quickly is of paramount importance to hospitals. On behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, the California Hospital Association (CHA) urges you to **support the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act**.

With bipartisan support, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (S.1816, Marshall, R-KS; Warner, D-VA/H.R. 3514, Kelly, R-PA; Bera, D-CA) would enhance patients' access to care and reduce unnecessary burdens on the health care system by streamlining prior authorization requirements in the Medicare Advantage (MA) program. Specifically, this bipartisan legislation would:

- Establish an electronic prior authorization standard to streamline approvals
- Reduce the amount of time a health plan is allowed to consider a prior authorization request
- Require MA plans to report on their use of prior authorization, including the use of artificial intelligence in prior authorization and the rate of approvals and denials
- Encourage MA plans to adopt policies that adhere to evidence-based guidelines

Inefficient prior authorization requirements cause delays in care and further strain the health care system financially — and this problem is pervasive among certain MA plans. California hospitals and health systems report that many MA plans are using prior authorization in broad ways that create hurdles for vulnerable patients and lead to treatment delays that may endanger patients' health. While prior authorization can prevent unnecessary care and promote evidence-based practices when used appropriately, it is increasingly being applied in excessive or unnecessary ways that result in delays and denials of medically necessary care. Greater transparency and oversight of the prior authorization process is needed to address these widespread challenges and improve MA beneficiary access to Medicare-covered services.

In California, a growing majority (56%) of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in MA plans, with MA penetration as high as nearly 75% in some counties. Moreover, California's ongoing implementation of California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal will encourage the state's 1.4 million dually eligible beneficiaries to enroll in dual special needs plans. As California moves to enroll the state's most vulnerable seniors and individuals with disabilities into MA plans, it is critical that lawmakers ensure prior authorization processes do not impede patients' access to care and that appropriate oversight is in place to provide necessary transparency and consumer protection.

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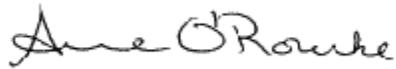
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CHA is pleased to support this legislation and **asks that you co-sponsor S.1816/H.R. 3514** to improve the prior authorization process, increase patient access to care, and reduce unnecessary administrative burden in the health care system.

If you have questions, please contact me at aorourke@calhospital.org.

Thank you for your support of California's hospitals and the patients they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne O'Rourke".

Anne O'Rourke
Senior Vice President, Federal Relations