



June 06, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1020 O St., Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 3260 (Pellerin) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Roth,

California's hospitals see firsthand the devastating impact on patients when their health care is delayed or denied. Health plans' prior authorization process often impedes timely access to medically necessary care, prolonging patients' suffering and compromising their health outcomes. Prior authorization also takes physicians and other providers away from patients' bedsides, forcing them to instead focus on time-consuming communication and appeals.

On behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, the California Hospital Association (CHA) supports Assembly Bill (AB) 3260 (Pellerin, D-Santa Cruz), which would expedite utilization review decisions for urgent conditions. The bill would further support patients by making the health care provider's determination of urgency binding on a health plan. If a health plan fails to decide within 24 hours, patients would automatically be entitled to pursue a grievance.

The current prior authorization process allows some health plans to put up unnecessary barriers to timely patient care, ultimately harming patients. CHA supports sensible prior authorization reform and increased state oversight of health plans. The current proposal offers critical patient protections and recourse if requirements are not met; this is an important step toward ensuring patients receive the lifesaving, life-changing care they need.

For these reasons, CHA requests your "AYE" vote on AB 3260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meghan Loper", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Meghan Loper
Consulting Lobbyist, California Hospital Association

cc: The Honorable Gail Pellerin
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health Committee
Jen Flory, Consultant Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra and Tim Conaghan, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus