



August 22, 2024

The Honorable Roger Marshall, M.D.

U.S. Senate
479 Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ben Lujan

U.S. Senate
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker

U.S. Senate
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Manchin

U.S. Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Support for the Electronic Prior Authorization for Prescription Drugs Act

Dear Senators Marshall, Lujan, Wicker, and Manchin:

On behalf of the Regulatory Relief Coalition ([RRC](#)), a coalition of national physician specialty organizations seeking to reduce regulatory burdens that interfere with patient care, we are pleased to support the *Electronic Prior Authorization for Prescription Drugs Act* (S. 4349). The RRC applauds your leadership on this legislation as it would protect beneficiaries in the private market from delays and denials for prescription drugs due to prior authorization.

The current process for obtaining prior authorization for prescription drugs is often cumbersome, time-consuming, and prone to delays, which can adversely affect patient care. According to a 2023 survey of medical group practices, 97% of physicians reported that prior authorization requirements result in delays or denials for medically necessary care, with 92% of medical practices needing to hire or redistribute staff to work on prior authorization due to the increase in requests.¹ Prior authorization delays can disrupt critical medication management, particularly for patients with chronic or life-threatening conditions. A study by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that nearly one in four patients who faced prior authorization requirements for prescription drugs experienced delays in receiving their medication, which could exacerbate health issues or lead to complications.²

¹ Medical Group Management Association, 2023 MGMA regulatory burden report, 2023, <https://www.mgma.com/getkaiasset/423e0368-b834-467c-a6c3-53f4d759a490/2023%20MGMA%20Regulatory%20Burden%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>.

² Pollitz, K., Pestaina, K., Lopes, L., Wallace, R., & Lo, J., Consumer problems with prior authorization: Evidence from KFF survey. Kaiser Family Foundation, September 29, 2023, <https://www.kff.org/affordable-care-act/issue-brief/consumer-problems-with-prior-authorization-evidence-from-kff-survey/>.

The *Electronic Prior Authorization for Prescription Drugs Act* would establish a secure electronic prior authorization process for prescription drug plans in the commercial market. By providing a secure electronic transmission of these requests, this bill will streamline the process, reduce administrative burdens on health care providers, and ensure that patients receive timely access to necessary medications. This legislation is significant for individuals with chronic conditions who rely on consistent medication management to maintain their health.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation to reduce regulatory burdens imposed by insurers. The RRC and its members stand ready to work with you to secure passage of the *Electronic Prior Authorization for Prescription Drugs Act*. For further information, contact Peggy Tighe at Peggy.Tighe@PowersLaw.com or Natalie Keller at Natalie.Keller@PowersLaw.com.

Sincerely,

RRC Members

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
Association for Clinical Oncology
American College of Cardiology
American Gastroenterological Association
American Osteopathic Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Medical Group Management Association
National Association of Spine Specialists