



June 11, 2025

The Honorable Roger Marshall
United States Senate
479A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Marshall and Warner:

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), I write to express our strong support for the ***Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2025*** (S. 1816). We commend your bipartisan leadership in advancing legislation that will streamline the prior authorization process in Medicare Advantage and ensure that timely, clinically appropriate care is not delayed by unnecessary administrative hurdles.

The College represents more than 60,000 cardiovascular professionals dedicated to improving heart health and optimizing care delivery for patients with cardiovascular disease. Our members consistently identify prior authorization as the number one administrative burden interfering with their ability to provide timely care. Too often, prior authorization processes result in dangerous delays, unnecessary denials, and added stress for both patients and clinicians. These burdens also greatly impact seniors managing chronic conditions such as heart failure, atrial fibrillation, and coronary artery disease.

The ***Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*** addresses these concerns by codifying and enhancing key provisions of the *Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes* (e-PA) rule that was finalized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 17, 2024. The legislation would establish an electronic prior authorization process, standardize transactions and clinical attachments, and increase transparency around Medicare Advantage plan requirements and how they are used.

Additionally, the bill would give CMS the authority to implement real-time decisions for routinely approved services, create enforceable decision timeframes for both expedited and standard requests, and improve beneficiary protections. To ensure ongoing program integrity, the bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to report to Congress on the impact of these reforms and future opportunities for improvement.

Importantly, these changes come at no cost to taxpayers. When Congress introduced this legislation in the 118th Congress, the Congressional Budget Office gave it a score of zero.

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The Mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health for all.

The legislation has already garnered widespread bipartisan support, with 47 original Senate cosponsors and 73 House cosponsors, and is endorsed by more than 140 health care organizations, including the ACC.

We urge swift passage of this vital legislation. Ensuring that Medicare Advantage enrollees can access medically necessary care without unnecessary delay is a critical step toward a safer and more patient-centered health care system.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership on this important issue. For questions or to discuss further, please contact Lucas Sanders, Managing Director, Congressional & State Affairs, at LSanders@acc.org.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Kramer, MD, FACC
ACC President

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is a global leader dedicated to transforming cardiovascular care and improving heart health for all. For more than 75 years, the ACC has empowered a community of over 60,000 cardiovascular professionals across more than 140 countries with cutting-edge education and advocacy, rigorous professional credentials, and trusted clinical guidance. From its world-class JACC Journals and NCDR registries to its Accreditation Services, global network of Chapters and Sections, and CardioSmart patient initiatives, the College is committed to creating a world where science, knowledge and innovation optimize patient care and outcomes. Learn more at www.ACC.org or connect on social media at @ACCinTouch.

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