



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

July 28, 2022

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: GOLD CARD Act of 2022, H.R. 7995

Dear Representatives Burgess and Gonzalez:

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine writes to express support for your legislation, the ***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 *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.

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

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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,

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