



August 19, 2022

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chair, Ways & Means Committee
372 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member, Ways & Means Committee
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee
2107 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce Committee
1035 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To Whom It May Concern,

The American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives (AAOE) writes in support of legislative efforts to relieve the burden of prior authorization requirements on health care professionals. In particular, we write in support of the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021 (HR3173/S3018) which would establish requirements for the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

AAOE represents over 1,300 members and 660 medical practices across the country whose mission is to promote quality healthcare practice management in the orthopedic and musculoskeletal industry. While we recognize the role utilization review tools such as prior authorization can play in controlling costs, administrative burdens associated with these requirements continually burden health care providers and in turn inhibit patient access to vital services. Patients are now experiencing significant barriers to medically necessary care due to prior authorization requirements for items and services that are eventually routinely approved.

We are pleased that your bill will help reduce the administrative burdens in the Medicare Advantage program by streamlining prior authorization, minimizing the use of prior



authorization for services that are routinely approved and increasing transparency. AAOE stands ready to provide support for this legislation and provide guidance on its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Behr, MD, MBA'.

Michael Behr, MD, MBA
Medical Director, OrthoAtlanta
2022 – 2023 President, American Alliance of Orthopaedic Executives

CC:

Representative Suzan DelBene
Representative Ami Bera
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Larry Bucshon
Senator Roger Marshall
Senator Kyrsten Sinema
Senator John Thune
Senator Sherrod Brown