



Ascension

The Honorable Mark Green
United States House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 6, 2025

Dear Congressman Green,

On behalf of Ascension, I write to offer our support for the *Reducing Medically Unnecessary Delays in Care Act*. One of the most common frustrations our providers face is the increasingly burdensome and complex barriers that insurance companies place between patients and the care their clinicians say they need. Your legislation is an important step towards removing these burdens and ensuring patients receive the care they need without undue interference.

Ascension is one of the nation's leading non-profit and Catholic health systems, with a Mission of delivering compassionate, personalized care to all with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2024, Ascension provided \$2.1 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Across 16 states and the District of Columbia, Ascension's network encompasses approximately 106,000 associates, 26,000 aligned providers, 105 hospitals, and 34 senior living facilities.

As you know, among the most difficult challenges providers patients face concerning Medicare Advantage (MA) plans are unnecessary prior authorization requests and unwarranted, dubious coverage denials. MA Plans are increasingly forcing physicians and other caregivers to spend their precious time and energy defending clinical decisions, often to physicians with no expertise in their specialty. This takes time away from patient care, and causes unnecessary delays in care, and contributes to provider burnout.

Your legislation is a positive step towards eliminating these burdens and restoring clinical decisionmaking to where it belongs – between doctor and patient. The requirement that MA plans use licensed specialists to make clinical preauthorization and coverage determinations is a commonsense reform that will reduce unwarranted denials and save providers time. Furthermore, the provision of the bill requiring MA plans to issue written, online criteria for preauthorization that are in line with clinical standards will increase transparency and ensure that patients are getting care without unnecessary delay.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation and for your leadership on this issue more broadly. If you have any questions or if there is any additional support we can provide to move this critical legislation forward, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Hayes, Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy for Ascension, at 202-302-2365 or mark.hayes@ascension.org.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy Efantis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Efantis
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs