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**ILLINOIS PATIENTS PAY THE PRICE FOR BUREAUCRATIC
HEALTH INSURER DELAYS**
It's time to fix prior authorization in Illinois

Springfield, IL – The [Your Care Can't Wait Coalition](http://www.yourcarecantwait.org), a group of healthcare and patient advocacy organizations, announced their support of the Prior Authorization Reform Act. The comprehensive, bipartisan bill was introduced today in the Illinois House of Representatives ([House Bill 711](#)) to address patient and physician concerns about the bureaucratic delays caused by the prior authorization processes used by state-regulated health insurance plans. The bill is expected to be introduced in the Illinois Senate (Senate Bill 177) on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

“The pandemic has only exacerbated the issues that physicians and other healthcare professionals face in delivering patient care,” said Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) President Robert W. Pantan, MD. “Before COVID-19, more than a thousand Illinois physicians responded to an ISMS survey and the vast majority expressed frustration about the harms caused to patients by this cumbersome prior authorization system.”

“We need to remove artificial barriers so patients get the treatments they need, and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles for doctors and other medical professionals. People should get the best quality care, whether it is physical health or behavioral health services, according to the best scientific standards and we need to cut through the red tape,” said House Majority Leader Gregory Harris (D-Chicago).

The use of prior authorization has exploded in recent years as a cost-cutting measure by health plans, at the expense of patient care.

“Patients are left in limbo for days or weeks before they can begin receiving needed care – even some cancer patients,” remarked Deputy House Republican Leader Tom Demmer (R-Dixon). “It’s heartbreaking and cruel to the patients waiting to know whether the life-saving treatments their doctor has ordered will be covered.”

The Prior Authorization Reform Act will establish consistent timelines so patients don’t have to worry about decision-making delays causing further damage to their health. The legislation will also make sure prior authorization requirements are based on medical evidence and administered by qualified individuals.

“Our bill defines who can review and make prior authorization decisions, because only qualified medical professionals should be making determinations about patient care,” explained Assistant Senate Majority Leader Linda Holmes (D-Aurora).

This legislation also removes the possibility that an insurance company can later deny payment for medical care that they previously approved. “We’ve all heard stories of patients who received surprise medical bills for treatment the insurance company said they would cover,” said Sen. Donald DeWitte (R-West Dundee). “Under the Prior Authorization Reform Act, the insurance companies will have to honor their commitments to the patients and care team.”

“It’s time to make prior authorization work for the people of Illinois. We don’t want to abolish it altogether, but it desperately needs to be reformed,” concluded Dr. Pantan. “Our message to Illinois patients is simple: Your care can’t wait!”

More information can be found at www.YourCareCantWait.org.

The following organizations support the Prior Authorization Reform Act:

The Illinois State Medical Society
The AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The American Association of Clinical Urologists
The American Cancer Society
The American Diabetes Association
The American Nurses Association of Illinois
The Arthritis Foundation
The Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance
The Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago
The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
The Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
The Illinois Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians

The Illinois Dermatological Society
The Illinois Health and Hospital Association
The Illinois Primary Health Care Association
The Illinois Psychiatric Society
The Illinois Public Health Association
The Illinois Section of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology
The Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing
The Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists
The Illinois Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons
The National Eczema Association
The National Multiple Sclerosis Society
The Respiratory Health Association
Thresholds



Illinois State Medical Society

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Illinois Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics
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The Illinois Section
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



Illinois Society of
Eye Physicians & Surgeons
The EyeMDs



AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION
ILLINOIS

Illinois Association for
Behavioral Health



ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS



IHA
Illinois Health and Hospital Association

isa
Illinois Society of
Anesthesiologists

AACU
American Association of
Clinical Urologists, Inc.



I · A · O · S

ILLINOIS PRIMARY
HEALTH CARE
ASSOCIATION

American Diabetes Association
Connected for Life

AFC
AIDS FOUNDATION
CHICAGO

DBSA
Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance



EPILEPSY FOUNDATION
Greater Chicago



IDS
ILLINOIS
DERMATOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

ILLINOIS
PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY
A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE
AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION



MS
National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society



National
Eczema
Association



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