



February 26, 2024

Senator Kelly Morrison
3205 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55115

Representative Kristin Bahner
525 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55115

Dear Senator Morrison and Representative Bahner:

I am the President of the Minnesota Podiatric Medical Association (MPMA) that represents the podiatric physicians and surgeons in Minnesota. Podiatric physicians and surgeons medically diagnose and treat ailments, injuries and medical conditions of the foot, ankle, and the soft tissue of the lower leg.

The Minnesota Podiatric Medical Association strongly supports SF. 3532 and HF. 3578 that you have both authored which regulates the burdensome prior authorization (PA) process.

The MPMA, along with a broad and significant coalition of health care providers, supports this critical legislation which modernizes the state's prior authorization statutes. This legislation establishes critically needed guardrails to the process so that podiatric patients can receive timely and needed health care. Thank you both for your advocacy for all patients in Minnesota.

In 2020, the MPMA, and other health care groups and providers, successfully urged legislators to pass a bill modifying the abusive prior authorization process. That law decreased prior authorization timelines and required that like physician specialists conduct the prior authorization reviews. These were important legislative changes. There was hope that the other prior authorization abuses would be voluntarily rectified. Unfortunately, there remain many prior authorization hardships for both patients and providers, necessitating this critical legislation.

The two most critical issues that podiatric physicians are experiencing are 1) prior authorization is extremely time-consuming, tax already limited staff resources at clinics and are administratively overly burdensome, and 2) prior authorizations are harmful to patients due to delayed care, disrupting established treatment plans, and result in even serious adverse events for patients.

This bill will drastically improve patient care in Minnesota by prioritizing patient care by reducing the burden of prior authorization on both patients and podiatric physicians.

The MPMA urges all legislative committees that hear this bill to support it so that critical medical clinical decisions can be placed back in the hands of the patients' treating podiatric physicians for the benefit of Minnesota patients.

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Representative Kristin Bahner
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Mahoney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

 Kevin Mahoney, DPM