



March 5, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

On behalf of more than 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), representing the state's physicians, I am writing in strong support of SF 205 to prohibit prior authorization on medications for antineoplastic cancer treatment.

Prior authorization requests allow insurance companies broad authority to deny or delay treatment recommended by a patient's provider to review if the prescribed treatment is "medically necessary." This authority is often abused and regularly interferes with patient access to needed care. In recent years, prior authorization requirements have increased and routinely force patients to delay care or forgo treatment altogether. While prior authorization may have a role for services where the treatment is questionable, or where services may be overutilized, the use of prior authorization for services that are too critical to create barriers to care should be limited; this includes medications for antineoplastic cancer treatment.

In 2024, a broad coalition of provider groups, health systems, patient advocacy organizations, and others, supported legislation to prohibit prior authorization for services where a delay in care leads to serious negative patient health outcomes. Unfortunately, the final bill did not include medications for antineoplastic cancer treatment. These critical treatments should not be subject to prior authorization requirements. Delays in these services leads to severe negative health outcomes, including death.

According to the American Medical Association, 1 in 5 physicians have reported that prior authorization has led to life-threatening health situation for patients. That same report showed that showing that 89% of physicians report that prior authorization has had a negative effect on patient clinical outcomes. Additional data demonstrates that physicians complete, on average, over 40 prior authorizations per week, adding up to over 13 hours a week per physician. Over 95% of prior authorization requests are eventually approved, wasting the time and resources of providers while delaying patient care.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this bill. I strongly urge support for SF 205.

Sincerely,

Edwin Bogonko, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association