

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

1609 County Road 42 W #305,
Burnsville, MN 55306

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Katie Smentek, MD, FAAP

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FAAP

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bauer@mnaap.org

Immediate Past President

Eileen Crespo, MD, FAAP

Chapter Web site

www.mnaap.org

AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Phone: 847/434-1000

March 5, 2025

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Minnesota State Capitol, Room G-15
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing in strong support of SF 205.

Prior authorizations often limit when a patient receives the treatment prescribed to them by their provider. In some cases, this delay can lead to severely negative health outcomes. In the case of cancer, delays in care can be deadly.

Pediatric oncologists see some of the most distressing cases in medicine. When a child has cancer, every hour that care is delayed may lead to worse results for that child. When insurance companies require prior authorization for cancer medications, it forces families who are already in extremely stressful and anxious situations, to navigate the complex system to get their child the medication needed to save their life. This should not be the case. When a child is sick and needs medication, especially to treat cancer, that medication should be available to them without having to haggle with insurance companies.

On behalf of Minnesota's pediatricians, but more importantly on behalf of our patients – Minnesota's children – I ask your support for SF 205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Smentek".

Katie Smentek, MD
President, Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics