

March 5, 2025

Minnesota Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senator Matt Klein
Bill Lunzer Bill.Lunzer@mnsenate.gov

Dear Senator Matt Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota chapter of the American College of Physicians, we respectfully encourage you to support and vote in favor of the Prior Authorization bill **SF205 which prohibits prior authorization for antineoplastic cancer treatment medications**. The Minnesota chapter of the American College of Physicians (MN-ACP) represents nearly 2500 internal medicine physicians and internal medicine trainees that take care of adult patients in clinics/hospitals throughout the state. The following provisions of the bill would improve health and healthcare access for Minnesota residents, especially those with cancer.

- Prior authorization can discourage and delay critical patient care. In cases of cancer treatment, the tiniest delay due to prior authorization can be deadly. This bill prohibits prior authorization for medications for antineoplastic cancer treatment. A 2023 national study of 178 cancer patients with prior authorization experience showed delays to care, with most delays ≥ 2 weeks. These prior authorization delays increased anxiety, and patient administrative burden.
- According to a 2022 survey by the American Medical Association, a majority of physicians surveyed said that the prior authorization process continues to have a negative impact on patient outcomes and employee productivity. Nearly a quarter of physicians (24%) reported that prior authorization led to an adverse event for a patient, and more than nine in ten reported prior authorization has a negative impact on patient outcomes (93%) and delays access to care (94%). More than a quarter of physicians (27%) reported prior authorization requests are often or always denied, and more than four in five (87%) reported prior authorization requirements lead to higher overall use of resources that result in unnecessary waste.
- Prior authorization leads to substantial administrative burdens for physicians, taking time away from direct patient care, while costing practices money and significantly contributing to physician burnout.
- Allowing, without prior authorization, antineoplastic cancer treatment that is consistent with guidelines of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

As physicians, we see first-hand the impact of prior authorization in health care coverage and access on our patients and their families. These provisions of SF205 will help improve health care access and reduce costs. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Minnesota.ACP@gmail.com if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely yours,



Tseganesh Selameab, MD, FACP
MN-ACP Governor



Sally Berryman, MD, FACP
MN-ACP Health Policy Committee Chair