



March 5, 2025

Senator Matt Klein, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Room G-15, Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Klein and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The Minnesota Society Clinical Oncology Society (MSCO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) strongly support **SF 205**, a bill that would exempt guideline concordant cancer medications from burdensome prior authorization processes, improving access to care for patients.

MSCO is a professional organization whose mission is to facilitate improvements for Minnesota physician specialties in both hematology and oncology. MSCO members are a community of hematologists, oncologists, and other physicians who specialize in cancer care. ASCO is an organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With over 50,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

Prior authorization, which requires patients or their clinicians to secure pre-approval as a condition of payment or insurance coverage of services, is consistently identified as the largest barrier to care for insured patients. In a recent ASCO survey, 80% of respondents said that a patient has experienced significant impacts on their health, such as disease progression, because of prior authorization processes. The most common harms to patients include delays in treatment (95%) and diagnostic imaging (94%), patients being forced onto second-choice therapy (93%) or denied therapy (87%) and increased out-of-pocket costs (88%). These survey results confirm that the administrative burdens associated with prior authorization contribute to major delays and denials of necessary, appropriate, and in many cases, lifesaving care.

MSCO and ASCO are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving quality of cancer care; however, it is critical that such policies be developed and implemented in a way that does not undermine patient access. Payer utilization management approaches like prior authorization are of particular concern because they represent greater likelihood of raising barriers to appropriate care for individuals with cancer.

SF 205 would accommodate the needs of specialized patient populations by prohibiting prior authorization for antineoplastic cancer treatment consistent with National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines, allowing patients to access appropriate care in a timely manner.

MSCO and ASCO are encouraged by the steps SF 205 takes toward improving prior authorization in Minnesota, and we welcome the opportunity to be a resource for you. For a more detailed understanding of our policy recommendations on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Position](#)

Statement: Prior Authorization. Please contact Sarah Lanford at ASCO at Sarah.Lanford@asco.org if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Amrit Singh in black ink.

Amrit Singh, MD
President
Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology

Handwritten signature of Eric P. Winer in black ink.

Eric P. Winer, MD, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology