



Statement from the American College of Physicians on the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2019

June 5, 2019

ACP applauds Representatives DelBene, Bera, Kelly and Marshall, on the introduction of the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2019, to improve patient care and reduce the burdens associated with the prior authorization process. We are pleased to support this bill that would streamline the process for prior authorization approval by requiring electronic prior authorizations transmissions in Medicare Advantage.

We are pleased that this legislation would implement several measures to reduce burdens associated with the prior authorization approval process. It would promote the use of technical standards for the electronic transmission of prior authorization requests and encourage their integration into existing electronic health record systems. It aims to improve patient care by emphasizing the need for real time decisions with respect to prior authorization requests as well as advances transparency and communication between health plans, clinicians, and patients.

The Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act is consistent with ACP's efforts to reduce unnecessary burdens on physicians and patients through our initiative known as [Patients Before Paperwork](#), which aims to reinvigorate the patient-physician relationship by challenging unnecessary practice burdens and provides a core set of policy recommendations for revising, streamlining, or removing entirely burdensome administrative tasks.

We will be drafting a letter that provides additional comments regarding this legislation and look forward to working with the sponsors to pass this bill in the 116th Congress to reduce unnecessary burdens associated with prior authorization.