

October 3, 2023

The Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC 20004

Dear Councilmembers,

We, the undersigned organizations representing the local and national healthcare sector, urge you to pass B25-124, the Prior Authorization Reform Act.

[A recent American Medical Association \(AMA\) physician survey on prior auth](#) showed that:

- 93% of physicians report care delays because of prior authorization.
- 80% of physicians report that prior authorizations can at least sometimes lead to treatment abandonment.
- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of surveyed physicians report a prior authorization led to a serious adverse event for a patient
- Physicians and staff spend almost 2 business days (14 hours) each week completing prior authorizations.

The Committee on Health marked-up of B25-124 on September 26. We ask you to support adding the bill to the Council's legislative agenda and voting for passage.

Over 40 other states have laws regulating prior authorization, but the District is not one of them. B25-124 creates common-sense guidelines such as prohibiting prior authorizations simply due to cost, setting timelines when insurers need to respond on requests, and publishing information to make clearer how to navigate the prior authorization process, among others. As our organizations can attest, prior authorizations interfere with care of all types. Our organizations can provide examples or visit [msdc.org/priorauth](https://msdc.org/priorauth) to see the Medical Society of DC's examples.

We ask for your support in helping B25-124 become law.

Sincerely,

Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
American Medical Association  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (AAPM&R)  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Physicians, DC Chapter  
Arthritis Foundation  
ASCO the Association for Clinical Oncology  
District of Columbia Behavioral Health Association  
District of Columbia Primary Care Association  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association  
Washington Psychiatric Association