



Removing regulatory barriers to timely access to care



Improving Prior Authorization

# Regulatory Relief Coalition Advocacy Toolkit

## **Introduction and Purpose**

This document contains recommended messaging and resources for the Regulatory Relief Coalition's Week of Action, and is meant to serve as a guide to help amplify the RRC's messages on the need to pass [H.R. 3173](#) and [S. 3018](#), the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act*.

The bipartisan legislation would help protect patients from unnecessary delays in care by streamlining and standardizing prior authorization under the Medicare Advantage program, providing much-needed oversight and transparency of health insurance for America's seniors. The bill currently has over [450 endorsing organizations](#).

Based on a [consensus statement](#) on prior authorization reform adopted by leading national organizations representing physicians, medical groups, hospitals, pharmacists, and health plans, the legislation would facilitate electronic prior authorization, improve transparency for beneficiaries and providers alike, and increase Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) oversight on how Medicare Advantage plans use prior authorization. Specifically, this bill would:

- ❖ Establish an electronic prior authorization process;
- ❖ Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a list of items and services eligible for real-time decisions under an MA ePA program; Ensure prior authorization requests are reviewed by qualified medical personnel;
- ❖ Standardize and streamline the prior authorization process for routinely approved items and services;
- ❖ Increase transparency around MA prior authorization requirements and their use; and
- ❖ Protect beneficiaries from any disruptions in care due to prior authorization requirements as they transition between MA plans.

## **Bill Information**

- ❖ [H.R. 3173](#)
  - Championed by Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Ami Bera, MD (D-CA), and Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
  - 255 bipartisan cosponsors
  - Referred to House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committee
- ❖ [S. 3018](#)
  - Championed by Senators Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), and John Thune (R-SD)
  - 16 bipartisan cosponsors
  - Referred to Senate Finance Committee

## **Bill Materials and Resources**

- ❖ [One Pager](#)
- ❖ [Endorsement List](#)
- ❖ [Dear Colleague Letter by Bill Champions](#)
- ❖ [CRS Report S. 3018](#)
- ❖ [AMA Report on Prior Authorization](#)
- ❖ **Letters to Committees of Jurisdiction**
  - [Senate Finance](#)
  - [House Ways and Means](#)
  - [House Energy and Commerce](#)
- ❖ [Regrelief.org](#)
- ❖ **Twitter:** [@RegRelief](#)
- ❖ **Linked-In:** [Regulatory Relief Coalition](#)

## AMA Prior Authorization Survey Data

- ❖ For those patients who treatment requires prior authorization, **93 percent** of physicians report care delays
- ❖ **82 percent** of physicians report that prior authorization can sometimes lead to a patient abandoning treatment
- ❖ **34 percent** of physicians report that prior authorization has led to a serious adverse event for their patient
- ❖ **24 percent** of physicians report that prior authorization has led to a patient's hospitalization
- ❖ **18 percent** of physicians report that prior authorization has led to a life-threatening event or required intervention to prevent permanent impairment
- ❖ **8 percent** of physicians report that prior authorization has led to a patient's disability or permanent bodily damage
- ❖ On average, practices complete **41 prior authorizations** per physicians per week
- ❖ Physicians and key staff spend almost **two business days** each week completing prior authorization
- ❖ **40 percent** of physicians have staff who work exclusively on prior authorization

## **Advocacy Resources**

<b>HASHTAGS</b>	
<b>#FixPriorAuth</b> <b>#TimelyAccess</b> <b>#HR3173</b> <b>#S3018</b>	<b>#RegReliefCoalition</b> <b>#RegRelief</b> <b>#Congress</b>

**\*\*Preferred hashtags\*\***

<b>Members of Congress House of Representatives</b>	
<b><i>House Leadership</i></b>	
<b><u>Democrats</u></b>	
• Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12), Speaker	@SpeakerPelosi
• Steny Hoyer (D-MD-05), Majority Leader	@LeaderHoyer
• Jim Clyburn (D-SC-06), Majority Whip	@WhipClyburn
<b><u>Republicans</u></b>	
• Kevin McCarthy (R-CA-23), Minority Leader	@GOPLeader
• Steve Scalise (R-LA-01)	@SteveScalise
<b><u>Energy and Commerce Committee Leaders</u></b>	
• Majority Handle	@EnergyCommerce
• Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06)	@FrankPallone
• Anna Eshoo (D-CA-18)	@RepAnnaEshoo
• Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-05)	@CathyMcmorris
• Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02)	@RepGuthrie

## Members of Congress House of Representatives

### ***H.R 3173 Lead Sponsors***

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01)</li> <li>• Mike Kelly (R-PA-16)</li> <li>• Ami Bera, MD, (D-CA-07)</li> <li>• Larry Bucshon (R-IN-08)</li> </ul> | <p>@RepDelBene<br/>@MikeKellyPA<br/>@RepBera<br/>@RepLarryBucshon</p> |
|---|---|

### ***Ways and Means Committee***

#### **Democrats**

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Majority Handle                  | @WaysMeansCmte   |
| • Chairman, Richard Neal (D-MA-01) | @RepRichardNeal  |
| • Lloyd Doggett (D-TX-35)          | @RepLloydDoggett |
| • Mike Thompson (D-CA-05)          | @RepThompson     |
| • John Larson (D-CT-01)            | @RepJohnLarson   |
| • Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03)        | @RepBlumenauer   |
| • Ron Kind (D-WI-03)               | @RepRonKind      |
| • Bill Pascrell (D-NJ-09)          | @BillPascrell    |
| • Danny Davis (D-IL-07)            | @RepDannyDavis   |
| • Linda Sanchez (D-CA-38)          | @RepLindaSanchez |
| • Brian Higgins (D-NY-26)          | @RepBrianHiggins |
| • Terri Sewell (D-AL-07)           | @RepTerriSewell  |
| • Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01)          | @RepDelBene      |
| • Judy Chu (D-CA-27)               | @RepJudyChu      |
| • Gwen Moore (D-WI-04)             | @RepGwenMoore    |
| • Daniel Kildee (D-MI-05)          | @RepDanKildee    |
| • Brandon Boyle (D-PA-02)          | @BrandonBoyle    |
| • Don Beyer (D-VA-08)              | @RepDonBeyer     |
| • Dwight Evans (D-PA-03)           | @RepDwight Evans |
| • Brad Schneider (D-IL-10)         | @RepSchneider    |
| • Thomas Suozzi (D-NY-03)          | @RepTomSouzzi    |
| • Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20)          | @RepJimmyPanetta |
| • Stephanie Murphy (D-FL-07)       | @RepStephMurphy  |
| • Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34)            | @RepJimmyGomez   |
| • Steven Horsford (D-NV-04)        | @RepHorsford     |

**\*\*Cosponsors of H.R. 3173/S. 3018 = Grey\*\***

## Members of Congress House of Representatives

### *Ways and Means Committee (cont'd)*

#### **Republicans**

• Minority Handle	@WaysandMeansGOP
• Kevin Brady (R-TX-08)	@RepKevinBrady
• Vern Buchanan (R-FL-16)	@VernBuchanan
• Adrian Smith (R-NE-03)	@RepAdrianSmith
• Tom Reed (R-NY-23)	@RepTomReed
• Mike Kelly (R-PA-16)	@MikeKellyPA
• Jason Smith (R-MO-08)	@RepJasonSmith
• Tom Rice (R-SC-07)	@RepTomRice
• David Schweikert (R-AZ-06)	@RepDavid
• Jackie Walorski (R-IN-02)	@RepWalorski
• Darin LaHood (R-IL-18)	@RepLaHood
• Brad Wenstrup, DPM, (R-OH-02)	@RepBradWenstrup
• Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19)	@RepArrington
• Drew Ferguson, DMD, (R-GA-03)	@RepDrewFerguson
• Ron Estes (R-KS-04)	@RepRonEstes
• Greg Murphy (R-NC-03)	@RepGregMurphy
• Lloyd Smucker (R-PA-11)	@RepSmucker
• Kevin Hern (R-OK-01)	@RepKevinHern
• Carol Miller (R-WV-3)	@RepCarolMiller

## Members of Congress Senate

### ***S. 3018 Lead Sponsors***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS)</li> <li>• Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ)</li> <li>• John Thune (R-SD)</li> <li>• Sherrod Brown (D-OH)</li> </ul> | <p>@RogerMarshallMD</p> <p>@SenatorSinema</p> <p>@SenJohnThune</p> <p>@SenSherrodBrown</p> |
|---|--|

### ***Senate Finance***

#### **Democrats**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority Handle</li> <li>• Chairman, Ron Wyden (D-OR)</li> <li>• Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)</li> <li>• Maria Cantwell (D-WA)</li> <li>• Robert Menendez (D-NJ)</li> <li>• Tom Carper (D-DE)</li> <li>• Ben Cardin (D-MD)</li> <li>• Sherrod Brown (D-OH)</li> <li>• Michael Bennet (D-CO)</li> <li>• Bob Casey (D-PA)</li> <li>• Mark Warner (D-VA)</li> <li>• Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)</li> <li>• Maggie Hassan (D-NH)</li> <li>• Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)</li> <li>• Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)</li> </ul> | <p>@SenateFinance</p> <p>@RonWyden</p> <p>@SenStabenow</p> <p>@SenatorCantwell</p> <p>@SenatorMenendez</p> <p>@SenatorCarper</p> <p>@SenatorCardin</p> <p>@SenSherrodBrown</p> <p>@SenatorBennet</p> <p>@SenBobCasey</p> <p>@MarkWarner</p> <p>@SenWhitehouse</p> <p>@SenatorHassan</p> <p>@SenCortezMasto</p> <p>@SenWarren</p> |
|--|--|

#### **Republicans**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minority Handle</li> <li>• Ranking Member, Mike Crapo (R-ID)</li> <li>• Chuck Grassley (R-IA)</li> <li>• John Cornyn (R-TX)</li> <li>• John Thune (R-SD)</li> <li>• Richard Burr (R-NC)</li> <li>• Rob Portman (R-OH)</li> <li>• Pat Toomey (R-PA)</li> <li>• Tim Scott (R-SC)</li> <li>• Bill Cassidy (R-LA)</li> <li>• James Lankford (R-OK)</li> <li>• Steve Daines (R-MT)</li> <li>• Todd Young (R-IN)</li> <li>• Ben Sasse (R-NE)</li> <li>• John Barrasso (R-WY)</li> </ul> | <p>@SenFinance</p> <p>@MikeCrapo</p> <p>@ChuckGrassley</p> <p>@JohnCornyn</p> <p>@SenatorJohnThune</p> <p>@SenatorBurr</p> <p>@SenRobPortman</p> <p>@SenToomey</p> <p>@SenatorTimScott</p> <p>@SenatorBillCassidy</p> <p>@SenatorLankford</p> <p>@SteveDaines</p> <p>@SenToddYoung</p> <p>@BenSasse</p> <p>@SenJohnBarrasso</p> |
|--|---|



## **Sample Tweets**

#PriorAuthorization = cumbersome process that requires #physicians to obtain pre-approval for medical treatments or tests before providing care to patients. It's time for #Congress to #FixPriorAuth and pass #HR3173/#S3018. #RegRelief @RegRelief

Prior authorization causes unnecessary delays for patients. #Congress should pass #HR3173 the Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act. TY @RepDelBene @MikeKellyPA @RepBera @RepLarryBucshon for your efforts to #FixPriorAuth!

Prior authorization causes unnecessary delays for patients. #Congress should pass #S3018 the Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act. TY @RogerMarshallMD @SenatorSinema @SenJohnThune @SenSherrodBrown

We urge #Congress to #FixPriorAuth by adopting #HR3173/#S3018. This bill will protect #MedicareAdvantage patients from time consuming practices and remove barriers to medically necessary care.

Prior authorization practices can cause time consuming delays for #MedicareAdvantage patients. Urge #Congress to enact common sense reforms to protect vulnerable patients by passing #S3018, the Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act. #FixPriorAuth

Thank you **[Representative's handle]** for cosponsoring #HR3173, the Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act, which would improve the time-consuming prior authorization processes that limit #MedicareAdvantage patients' access to care. #FixPriorAuth

Thank you **[Senator's handle]** for cosponsoring #S3018, the Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act, which would improve the time-consuming prior authorization processes that limit #MedicareAdvantage patients' access to necessary care. #FixPriorAuth

Prior authorization can be time consuming for #MedicareAdvantage patients. Support common sense reforms and urge #Congress to pass #HR3173, the Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act. Thank you **[MoC handle]** for your efforts to #FixPriorAuth.

Prior Authorization is a barrier to mental health for #MedicareAdvantage patients. #Congress can streamline access to essential care by passing #HR3173/#S3018. #FixPriorAuth

Mental health is physical health. @SenateFinance @WaysMeansCmte No one should have to wait for care when they need it the most. Its time to #FixPriorAuth and pass #HR3173/#S3018.

Patients with **[Disease]** should not have to wait for care and deserve timely access to essential services. #Congress has the obligation to #FixPriorAuth and pass #HR3173/#S3018.

Over 90 percent of physicians report that prior authorization results in care delays for their patients. #FixPriorAuth and prevent unnecessary harm.

82 percent of physicians report that prior authorization can lead to patients abandoning care. #MedicareAdvantage patients deserve better. @SenateFinance @WaysMeansCmte its time for action. #HR3173/#S3018.

Enough is enough. 34 percent of physicians report that prior authorization has led to a serious adverse event for a patient in their care. @RonWyden @RepRichardNeal we cannot continue to delay patient care. Pass #HR3173/#S3018. #FixPriorAuth

The average physician spends two business days completing prior authorizations. That means two days spent away from patients. We can do better. #FixPriorAuth and streamline the prior authorization process. #HR3173/#S3018

## Graphics Banks



**RRC**  
*Regulatory Relief Coalition*  
Protecting Patients' Timely Access To Care

To the House Energy & Commerce Committee:

**Please hold a hearing on  
H.R. 3173— Improving  
Seniors' Timely Access  
to Care Act of 2021**

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)

The graphic features a grayscale photograph of an elderly man in a wheelchair being assisted by a woman in a medical setting. The RRC logo is in the top left, and the website URL is in a red bar at the bottom.



**RRC**  
*Regulatory Relief Coalition*  
Protecting Patients' Timely Access To Care

**Support H.R. 3173/S.3018 to  
Improve the Prior Authorization  
Process for Seniors**

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)

The graphic features a grayscale photograph of two healthcare professionals, a man and a woman, looking at a tablet together. The RRC logo is in the top right, and the website URL is in a red bar at the bottom.



**RRC**  
*Regulatory Relief Coalition*  
Protecting Patients' Timely Access To Care

*RRC invites the Senate to pass  
**S.3108**, the Improving Seniors'  
Timely Access to Care Act of 2021*

*Vote for **common sense reform**  
to prior authorization now*

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)

The graphic features a grayscale photograph of the U.S. Capitol building with an American flag in the foreground. The RRC logo is in the top left, and the website URL is in a red bar at the bottom.




To the House Energy & Commerce Committee:

**Please hold a hearing on  
H.R. 3173— Improving  
Seniors' Timely Access  
to Care Act of 2021**

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)




**It's time for Congress to pass H.R. 3173/S.3108  
— the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to  
Care Act of 2021**

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)

## Support the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021

(H.R.3173/S.3108)



Establish an  
electronic prior  
authorization  
process

Minimize the use of  
prior authorization  
for routinely  
approved services

Require regular  
reports from  
Medicare Advantage  
plans on their use of  
prior authorization  
and rates of delay  
and denial

Prohibit the use of  
prior authorization  
for medically-  
necessary services  
performed during  
pre-approved  
surgeries or other  
invasive procedures

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)



**93% of physicians report delays in patient care due to prior authorization**

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)

## **Support the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021**

(H.R.3173/S.3108)

**82 percent** of physicians report that PA can sometimes lead to abandoning treatment

The average practice completes **41** PAs per physician per week

Physicians spend **two business days** a week completing PAs

**34 percent** of physicians report that PA has led to a serious adverse event for their patient

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)

*RRC invites the Senate to pass **S.3108**, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021*

*Vote for **common sense reform** to prior authorization now*



[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)



To the House Energy &  
Commerce Committee:

**Please hold a hearing on  
H.R. 3173— Improving  
Seniors' Timely Access  
to Care Act of 2021**

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)

*Regulatory Relief Coalition to  
House Committee on Ways & Means:*

**Please hold a markup on  
H.R. 3173, Improving  
Seniors' Timely Access to  
Care Act of 2021**



**RRC**  
*Regulatory Relief Coalition*  
Protecting Patients' Timely Access To Care

[www.RegRelief.org](http://www.RegRelief.org)



## **Grassroots**

### ***House of Representatives***

Dear Rep. XXX,

As a patient and constituent, I am writing to ask you to support H.R. 3173, the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act. This bipartisan legislation would protect patients in Medicare Advantage from unnecessary prior authorization practices that limit their timely access to medically necessary care. Specifically, this legislation would:

- Establish an electronic prior authorization process;
- Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a list of items and services eligible for real-time decisions under an MA ePA program; Ensure prior authorization requests are reviewed by qualified medical personnel;
- Standardize and streamline the prior authorization process for routinely approved items and services;
- Increase transparency around MA prior authorization requirements and their use; and
- Protect beneficiaries from any disruptions in care due to prior authorization requirements as they transition between MA plans.

Please help patients get the care they need by cosponsoring and enacting H.R. 3173.

Thank you so much for considering my request. The streamlined approach outlined in H.R. 3173 will improve my care and access to critical resources and treatments.

Sincerely,

### ***Senate***

Dear Senator XXX,

As a patient and constituent, I am writing to ask you to support S. 3018 the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act. This bipartisan legislation would protect patients in Medicare Advantage from unnecessary prior authorization practices that limit their timely access to medically necessary care. Specifically, this legislation would:

- Establish an electronic prior authorization process;
- Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a list of items and services eligible for real-time decisions under an MA ePA program; Ensure prior authorization requests are reviewed by qualified medical personnel;
- Standardize and streamline the prior authorization process for routinely approved items and services;

- Increase transparency around MA prior authorization requirements and their use; and
- Protect beneficiaries from any disruptions in care due to prior authorization requirements as they transition between MA plans.

Please help patients get the care they need by cosponsoring and enacting S. 3018.

Thank you so much for considering my request. The streamlined approach outlined in S.3018 will improve my care and access to critical resources and treatments.

Sincerely,