

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR PRESSLY AND REPRESENTATIVE CHASSION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to take action relative to the use of prior authorization processes and its impact on the citizens of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes the critical need to ensure timely access to healthcare services for all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, prior authorization processes, which are required by insurance companies for certain medical treatments, procedures, and medications, have been a persistent source of delay, frustration, and barriers to timely and appropriate care for Louisiana's patients; and

WHEREAS, these delays in care can result in negative health outcomes, increased costs to both patients and the healthcare system, and unnecessary suffering; and

WHEREAS, physicians in Louisiana report that the prior authorization process places a significant administrative burden on medical professionals, impeding their ability to provide timely and effective care for their patients; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the need for federal legislative action to streamline, standardize, and reform the prior authorization process to ensure that healthcare decisions are made in a timely and efficient manner based on patient needs and not solely by insurance protocols; and

WHEREAS, several states, including Louisiana, have made strides at the state level to address prior authorization issues, but further reforms are necessary at the federal level to ensure consistency, fairness, and the protection of patient welfare nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has taken steps to improve prior authorization processes for Medicare Advantage plans, however there is still much room for improvement; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan support exists for reform efforts that improve access to care while reducing administrative burden on providers and patients, including legislation such as the "Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act"; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation is needed to ensure that prior authorization processes are transparent, that approval or denial of medical services occurs in a timely manner, and that there is a clear appeals process for patients and providers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to take immediate and comprehensive action to reform prior authorization policies, including:

(1) The establishment of clear, timely, and standardized timelines for prior authorization decisions.

(2) The reduction of administrative burdens on healthcare providers to streamline the process and ensure that patient care is not delayed unnecessarily.

(3) The elimination of prior authorization requirements relative to generic medications.

(4) The introduction of legislative measures that provide a clear and effective appeals process for patients and providers when prior authorization is denied.

(5) The implementation of regulations that prioritize the needs of patients over bureaucratic red tape, ensuring that healthcare decisions are made by healthcare professionals rather than insurance companies.

(6) The creation of oversight and transparency mechanisms to ensure that insurance companies comply with prior authorization timelines and procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES