



ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY

Education. Innovation & Improved Patient Care. Advocacy.

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November 22, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader, United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), I am writing to urge passage of the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021 (S.3018), which is a bipartisan bill that seeks to reform prior authorization for Medicare Advantage plans, in an end-of-year legislative package.

AMP is an international medical and professional association representing approximately 2,600 physicians, doctoral scientists, and medical laboratory scientists (technologists) who perform or are involved with laboratory testing based on knowledge derived from molecular biology, genetics, and genomics. Membership includes professionals from academic medicine, hospital-based and private clinical laboratories, the government, and the in vitro diagnostics industry.

Prior authorization is often a barrier to care for patients in receiving laboratory testing, including molecular testing. Laboratories often must provide extensive documentation before prior authorization is granted, including a molecular diagnostic clinical history form, a recent pathology report, relevant clinical encounter notes, and other documentation required by the insurer. The process requires laboratories to hire administrative staff to complete the prior authorizations, as often the ordering physician does not submit the prior authorization on behalf of the patient. The time required to assemble this information as well as any delays in approval delays medically necessary testing, which ultimately delays treatment and could negatively impact health outcomes for patients, in addition to affecting the cost of healthcare.

The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2021 aims to improve the current prior authorization system for Medicare Advantage plans by requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish an electronic prior authorization (ePA) program, requiring Medicare Advantage plans to adopt ePA capabilities, and meet other standards set by CMS on the quality and timeliness of prior authorization determinations. AMP believes these changes will improve the prior

authorization process for laboratories and other providers, but most importantly, will improve patient care.

Please support the passage of the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act and bring much needed changes to the prior authorization program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura J. Tafe, MD

President, Association for Molecular Pathology