

August 3, 2022

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez
113 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Burgess and Gonzalez,

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), I wish to express our support for H.R. 7995 the “Getting Over Lengthy Delays in Care as Required by Doctors (GOLD CARD) Act of 2022.” We applaud your strong efforts to increase patient access to timely, critical health care services.

Prior authorization approval is currently required for a wide range of services under Medicare Advantage (MA) and commercial insurance plans. This process, while intended to control costs, can delay, or deny medically necessary care and negatively influence patient outcomes. The application of prior authorization has grown indiscriminately, adding to the amount of time physicians must spend negotiating with insurance companies and taking away from time spent on patient care.

The GOLD CARD Act would allow physicians with a 90% prior authorization approval rating to be exempt from prior authorization requirements under MA plans, and establish processes to ensure that MA plans do not inappropriately revoke this exception.

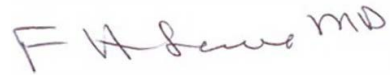
In April 2022, the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report that found MA plans inappropriately denied tens of thousands of requests for care that should be covered under the program.¹ This report comes on the heels of a [2021 physician survey](#) from the American Medical Association (AMA) that found 34% of physicians say that prior authorization has led to a serious adverse event- such as hospitalization, disability, permanent bodily damage, or death- for a patient in their care, and 85% of physicians describe the burden associated with prior authorization as high or extremely high. The AAOS

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. (2022, April). *Some Medicare Advantage organization denials of prior authorization ...* Retrieved from <https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/OEI-09-18-00260.pdf>

believes the GOLD CARD Act will help decrease the burden associated with prior authorizations and allow patients to receive the care they need without unnecessary delays.

The AAOS applauds your leadership, and we look forward to working with you to advance this bipartisan legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F H Savoie MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Felix H. Savoie, III, MD, FAAOS
AAOS President

cc: Kevin J. Bozic, MD, MBA, FAAOS, AAOS First Vice-President
Paul Tornetta, III, MD, FAAOS, AAOS Second Vice President
Thomas E. Arend, Jr., Esq., CAE, AAOS CEO
Graham Newson, AAOS Vice President, Office of Government Relations
