

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

Morris Auster, Esq.
Senior Vice President /
Chief Legislative Counsel

Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

ON SENATE INSURANCE COMMITTEE S.2680 (BRESLIN)
AGENDA

IN ASSEMBLY INSURANCE COMMITTEE A.859 (MCDONALD)

This legislation would amend the public health and insurance laws to reduce some of the exorbitant prior authorization hassles experienced by patients and their physicians by establishing a "Gold Card" program to exempt physicians from prior authorization requirements if they have received at least 90% approval from an insurer for prior authorizations for a specific treatment in the past 6 months. **The Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) supports this legislation.**

Excessive Prior authorization requirements are a growing problem in patient care delivery. They take up an extraordinary, yet unnecessary, amount of physicians' (and their staff) time and leads to delays in important care for patients. Several studies have highlighted the inordinate amount of time that physicians must spend on administrative tasks that interfere with patient care delivery. For example, a recent *Annals of Internal Medicine* study concluded that, for every hour a physician spends on delivering care to a patient, two more are spent on administrative tasks. Moreover, a 2022 American Medical Association (AMA) survey reported that 94% of physicians said that the prior authorization process delayed patient access to necessary care and nearly 90% of the respondents indicated that prior authorization led to a negative patient outcome. Moreover, this study reported that the average medical practice must complete a staggering 45 PAs per week. These excessive and unnecessary hassles, that take physicians away from delivering needed patient care, are a major contributing factor to the dramatic increase in physician "burnout."

S.2680 would help to address this problem and better ensure that patients receive the care they need in a timely manner and enable physicians and other health care providers to spend more time delivering needed care to their patients. It is based upon a law enacted by other states in recent years that seeks to reward and incentivize physicians for regularly following standardized clinical guidelines for patient care delivery.

For all of the reasons stated above, we urge that this measure be enacted.

5/23/23
ZDC - Support

Respectfully Submitted,

MSSNY DIVISION OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS