



RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

Honorable Jane Donovan
Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 25-H5120

SUPPORT

April 23, 2025

Dear Chair Donovan,

The Rhode Island Medical Society (RIMS) would like to thank Representative Potter for introducing H 5120, which would eliminate prior authorization requirements for in-network primary care providers.

Rhode Island's primary care system is at a breaking point. The recent closure of Anchor Medical left more than 25,000 patients searching for new primary care physicians—adding immense strain to a system already struggling to meet demand. Practices are reporting long wait times, limited capacity, and increasing burnout. In this context, we must take immediate, focused steps to strengthen the foundation of our healthcare system: primary care.

One of the most burdensome and unnecessary barriers to timely care is prior authorization. While intended as a cost-control measure, in practice, it delays needed treatment, increases administrative waste, and undermines clinical decision-making.

- 93% of physicians report that prior authorization leads to delays in care.
- On average, physicians spend 13 hours per week—nearly two full workdays—completing nearly 40 prior auth requests.
- 82% of physicians report that patients abandon care due to the complexity or delays of prior authorization.
- 29% have seen a serious adverse event result from delayed approvals.

This bill is not a broad elimination of prior authorization. It is a targeted, high-impact reform that removes unnecessary hurdles for trusted, in-network primary care providers—those who are already known to insurers and central to care coordination.

In this moment of crisis, we cannot allow bureaucratic processes to interfere with patients' ability to access timely, effective care. Rhode Islanders deserve better. Passing H 5120 is a critical step toward restoring access, reducing burnout, and keeping patients from falling through the cracks.

We respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kara Stavros, MD
President