

Alaska State Medical Association

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March 20, 2025

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee State Capitol Room 105
Juneau AK, 99801
Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

RE: ASMA Support for Senate Bill 133 – Prior Authorization

Dear Senator Bjorkman:

On behalf of the Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA), I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 133, which addresses prior authorization processes for medical care covered by health care insurers.

This legislation represents a significant step toward improving access to timely and necessary medical care for Alaskans. By streamlining prior authorization requests and incorporating an application programming interface, SB 133 reduces administrative burdens on healthcare providers and ensures that patients receive the care they need without unnecessary delays.

The provisions related to step therapy offer a balanced approach to treatment protocols, prioritizing patient health and safety while maintaining cost-effective care.

Additionally, the peer-to-peer review criteria will greatly reduce physician frustration with having to explain current standard of care to a physician reviewer who is often not familiar with the best practices in the provider's medical specialty.

ASMA believes that SB 133 aligns with our mission to advocate for policies that enhance the quality and accessibility of healthcare in Alaska. We urge the legislature to pass this bill and stand ready to provide any assistance or testimony needed to support its enactment.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the health and well-being of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Ventgen". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Pam Ventgen, Executive Director
Alaska State Medical Association