



April 14, 2025

House Labor and Commerce Committee

Re: House Bill 144, Insurance, Prior Authorization, version 34-LS0780\N

Dear Co-Chairs Fields and Hall, and members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes in support of House Bill 144, an Act relating to prior authorization requests for medical care covered by a health care insurer; relating to a prior authorization application programming interface; relating to step therapy; and providing for an effective date.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Alaska Chamber has a formal policy position to support a compromise for prior authorization reforms. The Chamber recognizes that members and health plans continue to face a challenging environment administering health care utilization. Prior authorization (PA) is a critical tool for preventing waste, fraud, and abuse. Government-run programs increasingly use PA to control costs.

Over the last year, stakeholders worked collaboratively with hospitals, insurers, and regulators to develop practical solutions to Alaska's prior authorization challenges. This effort led to HB144, a reform bill aimed at improving patient care by streamlining the prior authorization process.

Some of the key provisions include faster decision turnaround times (down to 72 hours), long-term approvals for chronic condition treatments, automatic approvals for critical cancer therapies, and a clear step therapy exception process. Supported by hospitals, physicians, and major insurers, HB144 promotes automation, transparency, and accountability in prior authorization procedures. The Chamber supports this compromise that preserves the protections of PA but facilitates health plans and providers working together to more effectively serve Chamber members and their employees.

In closing, the Chamber supports HB144, and we appreciate the consideration of the Chamber's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO



2550 Denali Street, Suite 530
Anchorage, AK 99503



Office (907) 278-2722



www.alaskachamber.com
info@alaskachamber.com