

Alaska State Medical Association

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March 31, 2025

Representative Zack Fields, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Juneau AK, 99801
House.Labor.and.Commerce@alaska.gov

RE: ASMA Support for House Bill 144 – Prior Authorization

Dear Representative Fields:

On behalf of the Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 144, 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, HB 144 reduces administrative burdens on healthcare providers and ensures that patients receive the care they need without unnecessary delays.

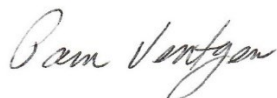
The provisions related to step therapy offer a balanced approach to treatment protocols, prioritizing patient health and safety while maintaining cost-effective care.

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 HB 144 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,



Pam Ventgen, Executive Director, Alaska State Medical Association