



March 26th, 2024

Senator David Wilson
State Capitol Room 121 Juneau AK, 99801
Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Wilson:

Since 1963, Alaska Regional Hospital has been meeting our community's needs by providing exceptional, high quality patient care. A key component of our commitment to the care and improvement of human life is to remove barriers to the provision of care. To that end, we support SB 219 and its aim to limit administrative burdens placed on trusted and proven healthcare providers through prior authorization requirements.

Prior authorization is a review process commonly used by insurers that essentially requires healthcare providers to obtain express authorization to provide specific services. Some assert that prior authorization is a means of reviewing how necessary a medical treatment or medication is, and thus is a means of curbing unnecessary medical services and spending. Unfortunately, this process has too often become a tool to deny valid healthcare claims and avoid making payment for services altogether.

Prior authorization is extremely time consuming on providers, requires endless paperwork, and creates unnecessary delays for patients needing treatment. SB 219 recognizes the validity of the prior authorization process while seeking to limit unnecessary, time-consuming administrative hurdles for proven and trusted healthcare providers.

Specifically, SB 219 exempts a provider such as Alaska Regional from having to complete a prior authorization if the utilization review entity has approved or would have approved at least 80 percent of the prior authorization requests submitted by the health care provider for that health care service over the most recent 12-month period.

SB 219 will eliminate wasted time and expense and free healthcare providers to focus on providing care for their patients.

Thank you for bringing this legislation forward.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Opsut, CEO