



FOUNDATION

HEALTH PARTNERS

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March 28, 2024

Senator David Wilson
Alaska State Senate, Chair
Health & Social Services Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Foundation Health Partners Support for SB219
Prior Authorization for Insurance & Medicaid

Dear Senator Wilson,

Thank you, Senator, for sponsoring SB219 which provides exemptions from redundant prior authorization practices by private insurers and Medicaid. It is our experience delays in this process has become a tool to deny valid healthcare claims and avoid making payment for services altogether by some insurers.

Foundation Health Partners experiences an average of 30-45 days in delayed treatment while waiting for Medicaid authorizations (slightly less for other insurances) necessary for scheduling treatment. The cost to FHP's system is at least \$2.8M per year. The current process of prior authorization is extremely time consuming on providers, excessive accounting costs, requires endless paperwork, and worse, creates unnecessary delays and timely patient treatment.

Many question the inefficiencies and costs incurred in Alaska's healthcare system. This is one viable solution to reducing costs for healthcare providers and providing efficient and timely quality care to our residents.

Sincerely,

Shelley Ebenal, CEO
Foundation Health Partners

Cc: Interior Delegation