



201 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Tel: (612) 928-6100
Fax: (612) 454-2744

AAN.com

President

Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN
San Antonio, Texas

President Elect

Natalia S. Rost, MD, MPH, FAAN, FAHA
Boston, Massachusetts

Vice President

Janis M. Miyasaki, MD, MEd, FRCPC, FAAN
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Secretary

Sarah M. Benish, MD, FAAN
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Treasurer

Charles C. Flippen II, MD, FAAN
Los Angeles, California

Immediate Past President

Orly Avitzur, MD, MBA, FAAN
Tarrytown, New York

Directors

Wayne E. Anderson, DO, FAHS, FAAN
San Francisco, California

Jennifer Bickel, MD, FAAN
Tampa, Florida

Bruce H. Cohen, MD, FAAN
*Chair, Advocacy Committee
Akron, Ohio*

Gregory J. Esper, MD, MBA, FAAN
Atlanta, Georgia

Larry B. Goldstein, MD, FAAN, FAHA
Lexington, Kentucky

Lily Jung Henson, MD, MMM, FAAN
Stockbridge, Georgia

Shannon M. Kilgore, MD, FAAN
Palo Alto, California

Brad C. Klein, MD, MBA, FAAN
*Chair, Medical Economics
and Practice Committee
Abington, Pennsylvania*

Jeffrey C. McClean II, MD, FAAN
San Antonio, Texas

José G. Merino, MD, MPhil, FAHA, FAAN
*Editor-in-Chief, Neurology®
Washington, DC*

Nimish A. Mohile, MD, FAAN
*Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
Rochester, New York*

Bruce I. Ovbiagele, MD, MSc, MAS,
MBA, MLS, FAAN
San Francisco, California

José H. Posas, MD, FAAN
New Orleans, Louisiana

Maisha T. Robinson, MD, MSHPM, FAAN
*Chair, Member Engagement Committee
Jacksonville, Florida*

Non-voting Board Member

Mary E. Post, MBA, CAE
*Chief Executive Officer
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

April 3, 2024

Representative Shannon Bird
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Representative Lisa Frizell
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Bird and Frizell,

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), is the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN's mission is to enhance member career fulfillment and promote brain health for all. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache and migraine.

The AAN writes to express our support for HB24-1149. This legislation manages to remove unnecessary burdens associated with prior authorization (PA that create delays in care, including eliminating or substantially modifying PA requirements in a manner that removes administrative burdens on providers and their patients. The AAN strongly urges the Senate Health & Human Services Committee to pass **HB24-1149** that will streamline the prior authorization process for physicians.

Utilization management tools such as prior authorization (PA can be time consuming and expensive administrative requirements that take away from direct patient care and be dangerous for patients. These tools not only cost an estimated \$93.3 billion annually on the US healthcare system,¹ but has also been reported to lead to patient treatment abandonment by 80 percent of physicians, with 33 percent reporting that PA has led to a serious adverse event (such as hospitalizations, permanent impairment, disability, or even death for a patient in their care.² For neurologic patients with chronic conditions, there is often no "one size fits all" course of treatment. Prompt access to care is essential to minimize risks of dangerous complications and side effects.

Prior Authorization also creates high level of burden on the medical care system, with 88 percent of physicians describe the burden associated with PA as high or extremely high, averaging 45 prior authorizations a week, taking around 15 hours a week to process. The gap between demand for and supply of neurologic services is widening due to several factors, including an aging population increasingly afflicted with neurodegenerative disorders.³ Use of physician time to complete PA processes reduces patients' abilities to receive timely care. The AAN is very

¹ <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.00036>

² <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/prior-authorization-survey.pdf>

³ <https://www.neurologylive.com/view/the-grave-threat-posed-by-the-shortage-of-neurologists>

concerned by the expansion of PA throughout the health care system and supports efforts to protect the physician-patient decision-making process.

HB24-1149 is a multifaceted approach that will improve access to and continuity of care for patients, promote transparency and fairness in the prior authorization process, and improve timely access to care and administrative efficiencies. These advancements will benefit many neurologic patients who require prompt medical decision making for their chronic conditions.

On behalf of the AAN, our 40,000 members, and their patients, we urge a favorable vote on **HB24-1149**. Please don't hesitate to contact Grant Niver, State Affairs Program Manager, at gniver@aan.com with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlayne E. Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology