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The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez
113 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: GOLD CARD Act of 2022, H.R. 7995

Dear Representatives Burgess and Gonzalez:

The American Association of Clinical Urologists (AACU) writes to express our strong support for your legislation, the Getting Over Lengthy Delays in Care as Required by Doctors (GOLD CARD) Act of 2022 (H.R. 7995).

The AACU's mission is dedicated to developing and advancing health policy education as it affects urologic practice in order to preserve and promote the professional autonomy of its members and support the highest quality of care for patients. We feel that the GOLD CARD Act will provide more professional autonomy for physicians and better access to medical care by exempting qualifying physicians from prior authorization requirements under Medicare Advantage (MA) Plans.

A 2021 survey by the American Medical Association highlights that 93% of physicians reported care delays associated with prior authorization, and 82% said these requirements can at least sometimes lead to patients abandoning treatments. As you are aware, prior authorization complicates patient care with administrative hurdles and delays, with a prolonged process that can require physicians and their staff to spend the time equivalent of two or more days each week negotiating with insurance companies. Patients are unable to access timely, necessary medical care due to these burdensome prior authorization requirements for services that are eventually routinely approved.

H.R. 7995 is a commonsense reform that will benefit MA patients and help to reduce physician burnout by streamlining and expediting the prior authorization process for physicians for whom at least 90 percent of their prior authorization requests submitted to a plan in the preceding year were approved.

The AACU supports legislative solutions that improve the prior authorization process. We look forward to working with you to advance H.R. 7995, which would reduce the administrative burdens of prior authorization in the MA program and provide safe, timely, and affordable access to care for our patients.

Sincerely,

Damara Kaplan, PhD, MD
President
American Association of Clinical Urologists

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