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August 17, 2023

The Honorable Michael Burgess, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Vincente Gonzalez
U.S. House of Representatives
154 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for H.R. 4968, the "Getting Over Lengthy Delays in Care As Required by Doctors (GOLD CARD) Act of 2023"

Dear Representatives Burgess and Gonzalez:

I write on behalf of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) to express support for **H.R. 4968, the Getting Over Lengthy Delays in Care As Required by Doctors (GOLD CARD) Act of 2023**. We appreciate that your legislation would allow physicians who have received high prior authorization approvals to earn a "gold card" and be exempt from certain prior authorization requirements in caring for Medicare beneficiaries.

Established in 1943, the AAAAI is a professional organization with more than 7,000 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes board certified allergist/immunologists, other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals – all with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunological diseases.

The current prior authorization process is overly burdensome, requiring medical providers and staff to dedicate hours of administrative time in negotiating with a patient's insurance company to preapprove certain medications that prescribers have deemed to be medically necessary to properly treat a patient. The legislation would amend the current prior authorization process to exempt physicians from certain prior authorization requirements under Medicare Advantage plans that had at least ninety percent approval rates for prior authorization requests in the previous year. The AAAAI appreciates the legislation's efforts to lessen administrative burdens and in turn restore health care professionals' time available to care for patients.

(more)

Thank you for your commitment to improve patient access to allergists/immunologists. The AAAAI looks forward to working with you and your staff as issues related to allergy, asthma, and immunology arise, and would encourage you to contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or sheitzig@aaaai.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Bernstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan A. Bernstein, MD FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology