

## **Written Testimony in Support of SB 330 – Prior-Authorization Reform**

To: Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance

From: Chady Sarraf, President of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County

Date: Feb. 4, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 330, legislation to reform the prior-authorization process in Kansas. On behalf of the more than 1,000 practice physician members of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, I strongly support this bill, which would impose reasonable and much-needed restrictions and limitations on the use of prior authorizations in the delivery of healthcare services.

### **Prior authorization delays harm patients**

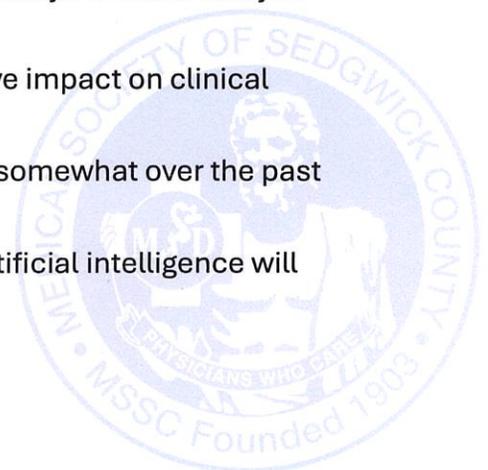
Prior authorization was originally intended as a utilization management tool, but it has become a significant barrier to timely, appropriate medical care. Delays in insurer responses often result in postponed diagnoses, interrupted treatment plans and unnecessary stress and suffering for patients. In some cases, these delays can lead to worsened health outcomes, emergency department visits, or hospitalizations that could have been avoided with prompt care.

### **Survey of Wichita physicians**

The Medical Society of Sedgwick County surveyed its physician members who regularly deal with prior authorizations. The results were clear and overwhelming:

- 93% of respondents said the prior-authorization process always or often delayed necessary care.
- 98% said the delays had a significant or somewhat negative impact on clinical outcomes.
- 90% said the number of denials increased significantly or somewhat over the past five years.
- 93% said they were concerned that health plans' use of artificial intelligence will increase denial rates.

Here are a few comments physicians submitted with the survey:



- “Prior authorizations are so incredibly burdensome, contributing to delayed care, worse outcomes, staff frustrations and burnout.”
- “The PA process not only negatively impacts patient care but increases costs to our medical practice and is a factor in serious economic difficulties facing medical practice in general.”
- “The rules used by insurance for approval are not based on evidence-based medicine, literature or guidelines.”

### **Reforms needed**

Establishing clear, enforceable time limits for insurer responses and other restrictions and protections will help ensure that patients receive medically necessary care without undue or dangerous delays. I urge the Committee to support this legislation and advance it for consideration by the full Legislature.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chady Sarraf', written over a horizontal line.

Chady Sarraf, MD  
President, Medical Society of Sedgwick County  
Wichita, KS