



May 24, 2022

Louisiana House of Representatives
900 North Third St
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Representatives,

The Louisiana Oncology Society (LOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to **support SB 112: Requires health insurers that utilize prior authorization to reduce burdensome delays in approving and in making payments for covered healthcare services.** We encourage the House to pass it as soon as possible.

Founded in 1992, LOS is the largest professional organization in the state serving a community of oncologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other allied health professionals who provide a powerful voice for multidisciplinary cancer care teams and the patients they serve. With nearly 45,000 members, ASCO's core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

LOS and ASCO are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving quality of cancer care; however, it is critical that such policies be developed and implemented in a way that does not undermine patient access. Payer utilization management approaches like prior authorization are of particular concern because they represent greater likelihood of raising barriers to appropriate and timely care for patients with cancer. While many treatments preferred by payers are less expensive, they may not be the best treatment for the patient.

SB 112 would require health insurers to create a program that allows for selective application of prior authorization based on a provider's performance and adherence to evidence-based medicine. A well-earned exemption for providers that have a proven track record of prior authorization approvals will allow doctors to skip this burdensome and time-consuming process, ultimately freeing time to care for their patients.

LOS and ASCO support SB 112 and encourage House members to pass this legislation to ensure that physicians most familiar with their patient's health care needs can provide timely care. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving utilization management, please contact Sarah Lanford at ASCO at sarah.lanford@asco.org.

Sincerely,



Nakhle Saba, MD
President
Louisiana Oncology Society



Howard Burriss III, MD, FACP, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology