



Physicians Caring for Texans

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony by Ezequiel “Zeke” Silva III, MD, Texas Medical Association
Senate Bill 1525 (Limiting Prior Authorization for Chronic Illness) by Sen. Jose
Menendez
April 23, 2025

Thank you, Chair Kolkhorst, Vice-Chair Perry, and committee members, for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dr. Zeke Silva, I am an interventional radiologist from San Antonio and chair of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) Council on Legislation. I’m here to testify on behalf of TMA and its more than 59,000 members IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1525 by Senator Menendez.

Last session, the legislature passed a law to limit the application of prior authorization for patients with auto-immune diseases. Since then, many states have passed similar efforts modeled after Texas’ pro-patient reforms. Senate Bill 1525 builds on that effort by expanding that exemption to patients with chronic illness.

The definition of chronic illness in this bill is modeled after what has worked in similar legislation in other conservative states, with the addition of the list of activities of daily living developed by the Health and Human Services Commission. This list further limits the applicability of the bill to patients with truly debilitating chronic health conditions.

Importantly, the bill does not prevent insurers from reviewing care when there is suspected fraud. The process to detect fraud exists outside of Chapter 1369 and nothing in this bill limits fraud detection or enforcement.

Conclusion

In conclusion, prior authorization has become an overused, opaque, and dangerous barrier to care. Senate Bill 1525 is a necessary course correction – putting patients first, restoring clinical judgment, and reducing costly inefficiencies in our health system. For these reasons, we support SB 1525.

Again, thank you, Chair Kolkhorst and committee members, for allowing me to testify today. I appreciate your time and would be happy to answer any questions.