



February 7, 2022

The Honorable Rhonda Fields, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
SCR 357
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chair Fields and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

The Rocky Mountain Oncology Society (RMOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to provide our strong support for SB 22-078, which would exempt providers with a high rate of approvals from prior authorization requirements.

Formed in 1991, RMOS is a diverse community of oncology professionals whose mission is to promote the highest professional standards of oncology, research and exchange information and ideas leading to improvements in oncology. ASCO is the national organization representing nearly 45,000 physicians and other health care professionals specializing in cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention.

RMOS and ASCO are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving quality of cancer care; however, it is important that these policies are 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 cost less, they may not be the best treatment available for the patient. SB 22-078 would offer providers that have at least a 95% approval rate of prior authorization requests over a 12-month period an exemption from prior authorization requirements. A well-earned exemption for providers that have a proven track record of prior authorization approvals will allow doctors to skip the burdensome prior authorization process, ultimately resulting in more-timely delivery of care to patients.

RMOS and ASCO support SB 22-078 and encourage the Colorado Senate Health and Human Services Committee to pass this legislation to ensure that physicians most familiar with their patients' 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,



Alan Miller, MD, PhD

President

Rocky Mountain Oncology Society



Howard Burris III, MD, FACP, FASCO

Chair of the Board

Association for Clinical Oncology