



## SB 247 Passed Both House and Senate for Prior Authorization Reform

*Your membership dues at work!  
All physicians need to “fund their voice.”  
There is strength in numbers. Together we are stronger.*

More than three years ago, physicians, patients and other health professionals and advocacy associations joined together to create **Health Can't Wait**. This coalition was formed to develop and enact into law legislation that would put Michigan patients first and end delayed access to vital health care services. Throughout this time, MSMS physicians and our coalition partners shared countless stories of the ways prior authorization caused unnecessary and costly care delays and interfered in medical decision-making. We are happy to report that after years of hard work your voices have been heard!

MSMS, SCMS and the **Health Can't Wait** coalition are pleased to announce on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, the Michigan House of Representatives passed **Senate Bill 247** with overwhelming support (103 yes votes and 2 no votes). SB 247 reforms the prior authorization process by reducing wait times and streamlining how physician offices and payers interact, all with a goal of reducing endless paperwork and ultimately improving access to care for patients.

“Michigan patients are now one small step away from receiving the timely care and treatment they deserve thanks to the House’s passage of SB 247 - legislation that puts an end to dangerous and devastating delays in health care delivery by reforming the prior authorization processes used by insurance companies”, said **MSMS President Pino Colone, MD**. “We applaud the House for recognizing the need for reform and the tremendous amount of good this bill will do for Michigan’s patients. With SB 247 now headed back to the Senate for additional consideration, we are excited to do everything that we can to see that this critical legislation is signed into law.”

On March 24, 2022, the Senate also passed SB 247 (106 yes votes and 37 no votes). SB 247 had previously passed the Senate unanimously in April 2021, but has been awaiting movement in the House since that time. Wednesday’s action in the House and Thursday’s concurrence vote in the Senate, marked the final step in the legislative process for this much needed reform. SB 247 now awaits final signature from Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Once it becomes law, this crucial legislation will bring transparency, clinical validity, and most importantly, improved timeliness to the prior authorization process.