

Senate Industry and Business

SB 2280

February 5th, 2025

Chairman Barta and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee,

My name is Bobbie Will, and I support SB 2280. The passage of this bill will ensure timely access to care by requiring insurers to respond to a prior authorization request within specific timelines. I have personally watched friends and family decline in their health due to approval denials or delays. I am confident my loved ones' decline in health could have been avoided by a timely approval process.

This is lifesaving legislation! Our family dealt with prior authorization delays while waiting for approval for heart surgery for my 73-year-old mother. We feel very strongly the delay in the prior authorization approval process was a direct result of the rapid decline in her health and within a few months the loss of her life. We called a few times a week for a month before her procedure was approved by her insurance carrier. By the time the procedure was approved, her health had declined, and she ended up in the ICU. Within two weeks, she was moved to hospice and soon passed away. We will never know if the procedure would have saved her life, we didn't have the opportunity to find out. No family or healthcare provider should spend a month calling the insurer to receive approval for a life-saving heart procedure. This is only one example of a handful I could share from my personal experience.

The emotional toll prior authorization has on a patient and family is unnecessary. Life-saving treatments and procedures should have timely approval. Every day counts when you have heart failure and aggressive cancer.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 2280. This legislation will ensure timely approval and improve the health of North Dakotans. Timely care saves lives and costs!

Bobbie Will
District 35, Bismarck