

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray:

We write to urge you to include in any final Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) funding agreement language prohibiting implementation of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Wasteful and Inappropriate Service Reduction (WISeR) Model, or any related model that would introduce prior authorization into traditional Medicare.

On June 27, 2025, CMS announced plans to implement the WISeR pilot in New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, and Washington, beginning January 1, 2026. This pilot program will contract private companies, using artificial intelligence (AI), to utilize prior authorization on essential medical services and devices, including stimulator services used to treat Parkinson's and other tremors; treatments for chronic back and other pain, including induced lesions of nerve tracts, epidural steroid injections, vertebral augmentation, and lumbar decompression; nerve stimulation to treat sleep apnea; incontinence control devices; skin and tissue substitutes used to treat wounds, and more.

While we support innovation, efficiency, and eliminating waste, we are concerned that this pilot will delay care for essential services to treat pain, injuries, and chronic conditions. Such issues are well documented. A 2018 Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (OIG) report found that 75 percent of denied prior authorization requests in Medicare Advantage (MA) were overturned upon appeal, suggesting initial denials were often unfounded, and a 2022 OIG report revealed that MA plans routinely use prior authorizations to deny access to services, even when those services meet Medicare coverage guidelines. These denials delay patient access to care while creating unnecessary administrative burdens for providers—taking them away from caring for patients. We are concerned that expanding the prior authorization process to traditional Medicare could have similar results.

In response to these concerns, during the September 9, 2025 markup of the FY26 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations Bill, the House Appropriations Committee

unanimously adopted an amendment prohibiting implementation of the WISer model, or any related model that implements prior authorization in traditional Medicare. LHHS Chairman Aderholt spoke in support of the amendment.

As you continue working towards a final FY26 funding agreement, we urge you to include this or related language to prohibit the implementation of this pilot and to protect patient care.

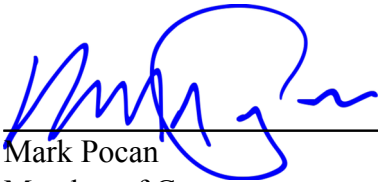
Sincerely,



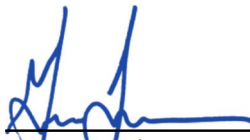
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



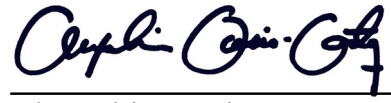
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



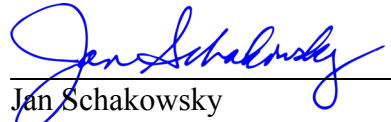
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



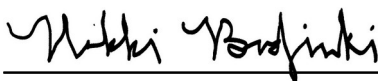
Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



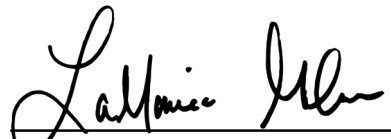
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



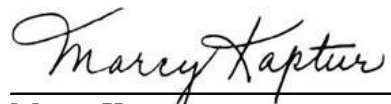
LaMonica McIver
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Mark Takano
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



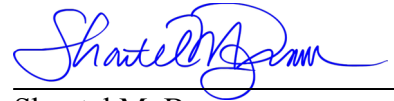
Marcy Kaptur
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



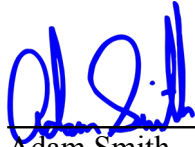
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



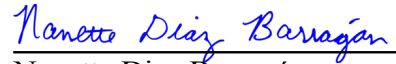
Shontel M. Brown
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Adelita S. Grijalva
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Adam Smith
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Greg Stanton
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Terri A. Sewell
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Dan Goldman
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Kelly Morrison
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Rashida Tlaib
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



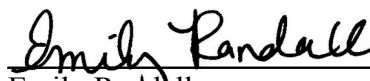
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



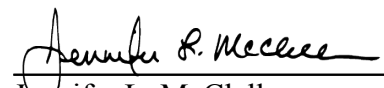
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



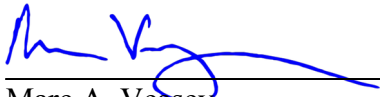
Robin L. Kelly
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Emily Randall
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Marc A. Veasey
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Summer L. Lee
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Deborah K. Ross
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Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



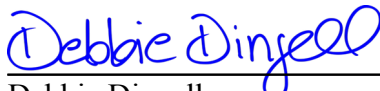
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



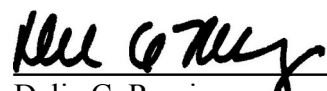
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



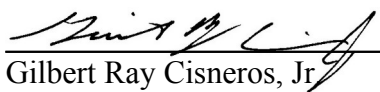
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



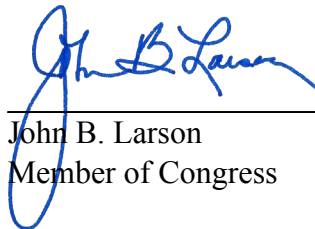
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



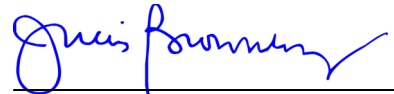
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
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Lizzie Fletcher
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
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Darren Soto
Member of Congress



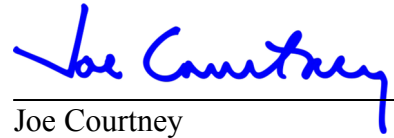
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



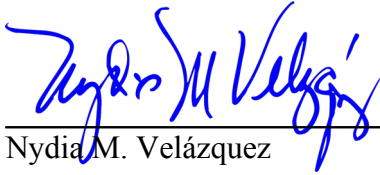
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



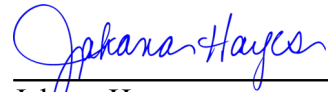
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



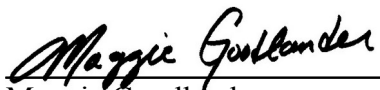
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



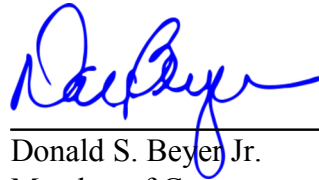
George Latimer
Member of Congress



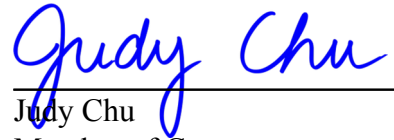
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



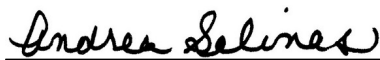
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



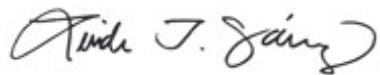
Andrea Salinas
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Nellie Pou
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Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
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