



February 17, 2026

Representative Austin Harris, Chair  
House Health and Human Services Subcommittee  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Representative Harris and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

The Iowa Oncology Society (IOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) **strongly support HF 2438**, a bill that establishes guardrails around prior authorization processes in the state.

Prior authorization requires patients or their providers to secure pre-approval as a condition of payment or insurance coverage of services. In a recent ASCO survey, 80% of respondents said that a patient has experienced significant impacts on their health, such as disease progress, because of prior authorization processes. The most common harms to patients include delays in treatment (95%) and diagnostic imaging (94%), patients being forced onto second-choice therapy (93%) or denied therapy (87%) and increased out-of-pocket costs (88%). These survey results confirm that prior authorization results in unnecessary delays or denials of cancer care.

IOS and ASCO are committed to supporting policies that reduce cost while preserving quality of cancer care; however, it is critical that such policies be 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 care for individuals with cancer.

IOS and ASCO are pleased that HF 2438:

- **Improves the review process** by ensuring all adverse determination appeals are reviewed by a physician within the same relevant specialty as the prescribing physician; and
- **Accommodates the needs of specialized patient populations** by prohibiting prior authorization for NCCN guideline concordant cancer-related screenings and preventative care.

IOS and ASCO are encouraged by the steps HF 2438 takes toward improving prior authorization in Iowa, and we urge you to support the measure. We welcome the opportunity to be a resource for you; for a more detailed understanding of our policy recommendations on this issue, we invite you to read the [ASCO Position Statement: Prior Authorization](#). Please contact Sarah Lanford at ASCO at [Sarah.Lanford@asco.org](mailto:Sarah.Lanford@asco.org) if you have any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, which appears to be "Abdelaziz Elhaddad".

Abdelaziz Elhaddad, MD  
President  
Iowa Oncology Society

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, which appears to be "Lynn Schuchter".

Lynn Schuchter, MD, FASCO  
Chairman of the Board  
Association for Clinical Oncology

*IOS is a community of oncologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other allied health professionals who provide a powerful voice for multidisciplinary cancer care teams and the patients they serve. ASCO is an organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With over 50,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.*