

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House
Boston, MA, 02133

Re: Support of S.1403, *An Act relative to reducing administrative burden*

Dear Chairman Rodrigues:

On behalf of MassBio and our over 1,700 members, I write in support of S.1403, *An Act relative to reducing administrative burden*. If passed, this legislation would require additional transparency around medical and prescription drug benefits that require prior authorization, protect patients from denials or delays of medically necessary covered services, and implement safeguards for the use of artificial intelligence in utilization review or management.

Overburdensome and opaque prior authorization requirements can restrict and delay patients' access to essential health care services and therapies. Prior authorization often results in longer wait times for patients to access health services, creating significant gaps in treatment that can ultimately lead to negative health outcomes and increased long-term costs. This legislation would help create a more transparent process by requiring carriers to publicly post all items, services, and medications that require prior authorization, and by implementing reporting requirements for carriers that shed light on prior authorization requests, including denials, appeals, and the time elapsed between the submission of requests and a determination.

This legislation would also protect patients by establishing criteria and limitations on the use of artificial intelligence in utilization review and prior authorization practices. While the use of artificial intelligence can reduce administrative burden and delays, especially in the prior authorization process, it is imperative that protections are put in place to ensure that decisions related to medical care are made by licensed professionals. This bill accomplishes both by establishing a framework for the implementation of artificial intelligence while prohibiting denials of prior authorization or adverse determinations of medical necessity unless made by a licensed physician or health care professional. These protections are critical to protecting patients from decisions made by arbitrary algorithms that could result in denials or delays in health services and therapies, seriously jeopardizing their health.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that S.1403, *An Act relative to reducing administrative burden*, be advanced from committee with a favorable vote. Thank you for your time and consideration of MassBio's testimony. Should you have further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KO' with a stylized flourish.

Kendalle Burlin O'Connell
CEO & President
Massachusetts Biotechnology Council (MassBio)