



Charlene K. MacDonald
President and CEO

May 1, 2026

The Honorable Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senate
479A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Marshall and Whitehouse,

On behalf of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), representing more than 1,000 tax-paying community hospitals and health systems, we write to express our support for S. 4384, the **Medicare Advantage Improvement Act of 2026**. The Medicare Advantage Improvement Act (MAIA) strengthens how Medicare Advantage (MA) delivers care by preserving its core structure, protecting seniors' benefits and choice while strengthening the programs effectiveness for both seniors and providers.

Hospitals and post-acute care providers across the country experience challenges with prior authorization requirements in MA. These requirements too often delay or disrupt medically necessary care, increase out-of-pocket costs and create confusion and uncertainty for patients and their families. FAH strongly supports the bill's provisions to establish clear and enforceable timelines for prior authorization decisions, including expedited and real-time determinations for routine and low-risk services.

We also commend the bill's focus on transparency and accountability. Enhanced reporting of prior authorization data, together with strengthened oversight of MA plans' compliance, will provide greater visibility into plan practices and performance and help ensure that beneficiaries have access to the care they are entitled to under the program. These reforms are critical to improving consistency and dependability in how the program operates for patients and providers alike.

This legislation directly addresses key challenges seniors face today, including delays in care approvals, surprise denials, unclear appeal processes, and limited access to post-acute and rehabilitation care. By reducing unnecessary administrative barriers, it allows clinicians to focus more on patient care, improve continuity of care for patients, and support better outcomes.

FAH appreciates your leadership on this important issue and looks forward to working with you to advance policies that improve access to care, strengthen accountability in MA, and ensure the program works as intended for patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlene MacDonald".

Charlene MacDonald