

Senator Donnie Chesteen
P.O. Box 39
Geneva, AL 36340

January 25, 2023.

Dear Honorable Senator Chesteen,

My name is MaryElla Spivey, a family nurse practitioner student at Auburn University residing in Alabama Senate District 29. As a future nurse practitioner in Geneva County, I am requesting your support for Alabama Senate Bill 27 (S.B.27). The bill was first introduced by Senator Butler into the Banking and Insurance Committee on January 11, 2022.

If passed, S.B.27 will ensure prior authorization requests from insurance companies, regarding prescription medications, are promptly responded to within three business days. Currently, health insurance companies do not abide by time limits for approving, denying, or requesting supplemental information from healthcare providers to approve certain prescriptions. While the physician is waiting on communication from the insurance company, patients may not receive the medication for days or even weeks after the initial prescription. As a result, Alabama residents may suffer unwarranted consequences of not receiving potentially life-saving medications.

The bill would directly influence patient outcomes and provide a better use of healthcare providers' time and resources while generating high-quality patient care. Regarding my future practice as a nurse practitioner, Alabama S.B. 27 will prevent any delays in patient access to prescribed medications. Working in primary care, my patients may require time-sensitive medications such as insulin, inhalers, hypertensive agents, cholesterol-lowering drugs, and the newest superior brand-name medications. Delaying these medications could result in adverse patient outcomes, including stroke, heart attack, respiratory distress, and even death. Passing Alabama S.B. 27 will hold insurers responsible for prompt communication with providers so that more time is spent caring for patients. Therefore, allocating three business days for the insurance company and provider to resolve this issue would prevent negative patient outcomes and overall misuse of provider time.

Again, I humbly ask for your support and vote regarding this bill. Thank you for your time, and feel free to contact me for further explanation and any questions.

Respectively,

MaryElla Spivey, BSN, RN, Auburn University MSN Candidate
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