



# American College of Gastroenterology

Advocacy and Legislative Update



# Overview

- ACG - Board of Governors
  - Fly-In Washington DC
  - Our role as your advocate
- ACG member benefits
- Get involved with ACG
  - Committees
  - FACG
  - Leadership Program



# Board of Governors

- ACG fellows that are elected from the membership of a particular state or region
  - 76 governors across the country
  - Three year term – serve a total of 6 years
- Our goal to communicate between the ACG leadership and the members
- Meet twice a year
  - Annual meeting
  - Independent meeting
- ACG Fly- in -Washington DC



# Ohio Delegates



Governor for Ohio – Northern  
(zip codes 43000 – 43199 and 43300 – 44999)

**Sapna V. Thomas, MD, FACP**  
Term Ending: 2026

216-832-8956



Governor for Ohio – Southern  
(zip codes 43200 – 43299 and 45000 – 45999)

**Andrew B. Chun, MD, FACP**  
Term Ending: 2025

513-604-1329



# ACG Fly-in to Washington DC

- Meetings on Capitol Hill -
  - Sen Sherrod Brown
  - Sen JD Vance
  - Rep Greg Landsman – OH-1
  - Rep Max Miller – OH-7
  - Rep Shontel Brown OH-11







# Reform to Medicare Physician Reimbursement System

- Medicare reimbursement impacts patient care and access to health care – especially in rural OH
- Lack of reimbursement reform contributes
  - physician practice consolidation
  - Provider burnout
- Budget neutrality provision is unfair and unwarranted
- Quality reporting programs tied to Medicare reimbursement must be carefully implemented



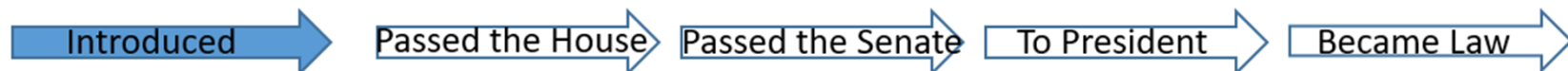
# Safe Step Act (S.652 & H.R 2630)

- **Bill Summary**

- Requires employer-sponsored health plans (86 million Americans) to have transparent exception process and criteria (medication was ineffective, cause harm)
- Requires response time to be 72 hours, 24 hours if life is at risk
- More than 200 healthcare organizations support this bill – 189 House Reps and 39 Senators

- **Why Its Necessary**

- 37 States have adopted some form of step therapy reform – including OH!
- Step therapy protocols allow insurance companies to force patients to try other treatments
- Costs the system \$93.3 Billion dollars to navigate requirements







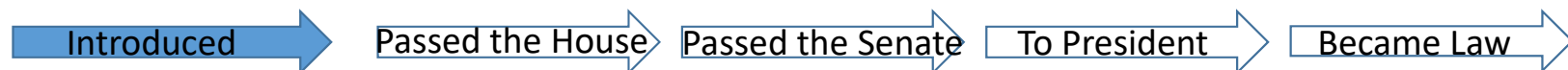
# Reducing Medically Unnecessary Delays in Care Act (HR 5213)

- **Bill Summary**

- Requires all Medicare plans to have ONLY medically-necessary prior authorization policies for both prescription drugs and services
- Requires appeals be conducted by a doctor in the same specialty as the patients condition

- **Why Its Necessary**

- Leads to delay in care
- Limited opportunity to speak to another gastroenterologist during appeal





# Surveillance Colonoscopy is Preventive

- Support language for the HHS FY2025 appropriations bill
  - Medicare correctly classifies surveillance colonoscopy as a preventive service but private insurers consider it diagnostic – triggering cost-sharing and prior authorization
- June 2024 – The House Appropriations Committee released its bill funding HHS for 2025 – included the CRC screening continuum in its report language



# State/National Issues

- ACG Staff monitor state-wide issues (Brad Conway)
  - Gold Card Prior Authorization
- Anesthesia for Endoscopy
- MOC



# ACG Member Benefits

- ACG Website
  - Education
    - Virtual Grand Rounds
    - APP support
    - Toolboxes
    - Journals, Meetings, CME/MOC
  - Coding
    - Coding Forum - Arlene Morrow, CPC, CMM, CMSCS will answer questions – [coding@gi.org](mailto:coding@gi.org)
  - Find/Post a job



# Get Involved

- **Committee**
  - 24 Committees with ACG – 900 members
  - Application to join a committee will open in November after the annual meeting – committee assignments will be sent out July/August prior to the meeting
  - Term is 1-3 years depending on the committee and involvement
- **FACG**
  - Criteria - uninterrupted membership for 5 years, attend meetings, committee involvement, etc
  - LOR from 2 Fellows



# ACG Center for Leadership, Ethics, and Equity (LE &E Center)

## The Early Career Leadership Program

- Develops future leaders in clinical gastroenterology by providing leadership and policy training

### -Program Features:

- Open to applicants **1-5 years** out of fellowship (completed one full year of practice after their terminal GI or hepatology fellowship and are in their first five years of clinical practice.)

In-Person Leadership Course: Friday through Sunday, June 6-8, 2025 in Washington, DC

Advocacy Day Fly-In: April 3-4, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Washington

Leadership Assessment and Leadership Model Development Pre-Work and Virtual Check-Ins

**2025 Applications: September 16, 2024 – November 15, 2024**



# ACG Center for Leadership, Ethics, and Equity (LE &E Center)

## **The Advanced Leadership Development Program**

- The goal of the program is to provide mid-career physicians (10-20 years post-fellowship completion) who are ACG members with the opportunity to further develop comprehensive leadership skills.
- The program will develop a cohesive group of peer leaders who will serve as problem-solving consultants for each other and the College.

**2025 Applications: September 16, 2024 – November 15, 2024**