



## American Clinical Neurophysiology Society (ACNS)

Monthly Policy Update – March 2022

### **Congress Passes Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations**

On March 10, Congress passed an omnibus funding bill for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2022. The bill included \$108.3 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, including \$45 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and \$1 billion for a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). The bill included a 151-day extension of several telehealth flexibilities, including waiving the originating site and geographic restrictions, and coverage for audio-only services. It also required a study by MedPAC on the utilization of these extended services and the impact on Medicare expenditures. Congress is continuing to work on a long-term solution for telehealth post-public health emergency, and we will continue to update ACNS members on these discussions.

### **Prior Authorization Bill Gains Momentum**

The Senate Finance Committee is currently working on a mental health reform legislative package, and they are considering including the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (S. 3018) in the package. This bill aims to improve care for seniors by streamlining and strengthening the way Medicare Advantage plans use prior authorization and increasing oversight and transparency around prior authorization. ACNS sent a [letter](#) to Senate Finance Committee members asking for their support of this important legislation and urging its inclusion in the mental health legislative package. ACNS also sent a [letter](#) to the House Ways and Means Committee leadership requesting that they consider the bill in a legislative hearing.