

June 26th 2024

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The Honorable Jason Smith
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
372 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

On behalf of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI) we would like to register our strong support for H.R.1691, the "Ensuring Patient Access to Critical Breakthrough Products Act of 2023". We urge you to quickly accelerate the passage of this important piece of legislation out of the Ways and Means Committee this week.

H.R.1691 will help to close the "valley of death" by authorizing four years of provisional coverage for FDA-authorized breakthrough medical technologies to help seniors with life-threatening conditions get the treatment they need in a timely manner. Currently, patients on Medicare have to wait years before they are allowed to use breakthrough medical technologies and treatments.

A recent study by Stanford University found that only 44% of novel technologies that were authorized by the FDA between 2016-2019 were approved for Medicare coverage by the end of 2022. The average time for coverage was over 5 years. They found that one of the biggest reasons for this delay was caused by issues with establishing adequate reimbursement.

We urge you to pass H.R.1691 from the committee and to enact this bipartisan bill into law this year. Thank you for your support on this bill that impacts and saves the lives of senior citizens.

Sincerely,



Arnold Seto, MD, FSCAI
Chair, SCAI Advocacy Committee



Mark Hoyer, MD, FSCAI
Co-Chair, SCAI Advocacy Committee