

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries,

Americans across the country are grappling with high and rising health care costs. As Congress works toward possible solutions, it has the opportunity to take a modest but meaningful step this year toward tackling high health care costs by addressing **site neutral payments, site of service billing transparency, and hospital and insurer price transparency. These policies would help address the major driver of high and rising health care costs – the price of care.**

These measures enjoy widespread, bipartisan support on Capitol Hill and are overwhelmingly supported by voters. The passage of the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (LCMT) in the House of Representatives represented a clear consensus across the aisle. Stakeholders representing patients, consumers, clinicians, employers, and others offered their support in an open letter stating that no one should be charged more for the same care simply because of where they receive it.

To advance more affordable and transparent health care prices, we urge you to consider the following policies:

Codify hospital and insurer price transparency requirements to empower consumers, employers, clinicians, and policymakers with essential information regarding health care costs. Transparency is pivotal in fostering competition and holding hospitals and health systems accountable for fair and reasonable pricing.

Advance site neutral payments for drug administration services, similar to the provisions included in the LCMT. Eliminating price differences for certain services (which can result in patients paying up to four times more) based on where care is delivered can help create a fairer and more affordable system for patients and reduce the incentives for large, consolidated health systems to buy up physician practices to charge higher prices.

Establish site of service billing transparency to provide transparency over where patients receive care by requiring unique National Provider Identifiers (NPI). This will help address the challenge of patients being

charged excessively high hospital prices for care that is actually being provided in a lower-cost setting such as off-site clinics or outpatient departments.

Ultimately, these provisions will help lower health care costs for patients by reducing prices for low-acuity, routine services that are commonly and safely provided in a physician's office, without harming access to care. For instance, site neutral reforms help protect rural patients from the adverse impacts of hospital consolidation while preserving the critical care functions of rural hospitals — 61% of which are critical access hospitals exempt from proposed site neutral reforms in the House-passed LCMT.

We strongly urge you to champion the passage of these policies in legislation this year. By doing so, you will play a central role in advancing more affordable and transparent health care prices and lower health care costs for patients, consumers, and employers nationwide.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians

Families USA

American Benefits Council

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Arnold Ventures

Purchaser Business Group on Health

The ERISA Industry Committee

Small Business Majority