



THE ERISA
INDUSTRY COMMITTEE
*Shaping benefit policies
before they shape you.*

JAMES GELFAND
President

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Mike Braun
United States Senate
404 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Braun and Baldwin,

On behalf of The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC), thank you for introducing the *Healthy Competition for Better Care Act*. ERIC strongly supports your legislation that will promote competition and reduce network consolidation within the health care system. This legislation would significantly improve patient quality and safety, and lower health care costs.

ERIC is a national advocacy organization exclusively representing the largest employers in the United States in their capacity as sponsors of employee benefit plans for their nationwide workforces. With member companies that are leaders in every economic sector, ERIC is the voice of large employer plan sponsors on federal, state, and local public policies impacting their ability to sponsor benefit plans.

ERIC's work on health policy is focused on driving affordable, high-value coverage for employees by promoting transparency and competition, building and improving markets to lower costs and improve quality, and improving flexibility for employers to innovate and design the best health coverage for their beneficiaries. ERIC member companies believe transparency is paramount to achieving health care affordability for our employees, retirees, and their workers. Without this foundation, patients are at risk of paying for costly medical services at sub-standard health care facilities.

Large employers and businesses of all sizes have been concerned for decades about health system consolidation and limited access to certain provider groups, and remain so. One result of increasing market consolidation is that provider systems are using market power to demand unethical and deeply unfair contractual terms, which reduce the quality and safety of care while increasing costs for patients. Your legislation has the potential to improve fairness in contracting within the health care system by allowing incentives for enrollees who choose high-quality and low-cost providers, for insurers and employers to contract with hospitals and providers for their patients, without requirements to enter into additional contracts with other affiliated providers or hospitals, and for health insurance issuers to negotiate their own rates with other providers who are not a party to the contract of the provider involved.

ERIC strongly supports this legislation and looks forward to working with you to advance the bill during the 118th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. Gelfand".