

April 25, 2023

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 Kevin McCarthy
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 McCarthy, and Leader Jeffries,

For decades, skyrocketing health care costs have put a squeeze on families' budgets and created a downward pressure on wages and income. Rising prices for health care are putting a larger than ever burden on consumers, employers, and state and federal taxpayers.

A new [national survey](#) shows an overwhelming majority of voters (94%) across the political spectrum believe it's important for Congress to take action to address high health care prices in the next two years. Similarly, voters on both sides of the aisle broadly support a wide range of policies to lower hospital prices. The findings show a large majority of voters (74%) are more concerned that Congress won't do enough to limit high prices—not that policymakers will go too far. This research underscores the frustrations voters have with health care affordability and highlights the bipartisan demand for more aggressive federal action to lower prices.

We are a non-partisan group of organizations that represent consumers, businesses, purchasers, and physicians who are working together to make high-quality health care more affordable. We promote action to protect consumers and employers from predatory pricing, and advance policies that prevent powerful health systems from engaging in business tactics that stifle competition and lead to higher prices. We believe that making health care more affordable for consumers, employers, and taxpayers is an economic and societal imperative.

Our work is centered around the following four principles:

1. Making health care more affordable for consumers, employers, and taxpayers is an economic and societal imperative. To do this, we must address the central driver of high health care costs for the privately insured—the high prices being charged for care—by increasing choices for consumers and purchasers, and limiting anti-competitive behavior to lower prices.

2. Market failures must be directly addressed. There is insufficient competition on price and quality in many health care markets where provider markets are highly consolidated. Dominant providers and health systems have the ability to demand high prices, and there is an imbalance in the information available to consumers. It is essential that action is taken where markets have failed to restore and increase competition and to lower prices.

3. We need more complete and transparent information on pricing. In order for families, purchasers, and policymakers to understand and fix the problem of high health care prices with common-sense solutions that work, we need more complete and transparent information on price, quality, and other aspects of our health care system.

4. We must address high health care prices in a way that directs resources where they are most needed across the health care system. A comprehensive solution to address high health care costs must ultimately create a more accessible, equitable, and sustainable system that provides high-quality affordable care.

While there are several drivers that contribute to high prices, we hope to continue to shine a light on some of the most egregious behaviors and practices that are increasing costs for patients, purchasers, and taxpayers. We know that policymakers and consumers need more complete and transparent information on prices, quality, and other aspects of our health care system to better understand and fix the pricing problem with solutions that work. We welcome the opportunity to share future related research and stand ready to partner with you to put affordable, equitable, and high-quality health care at the center of your legislative efforts.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians

The ERISA Industry Committee

American Benefits Council

Families USA

Arnold Ventures

Purchaser Business Group on Health

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Small Business Majority