



MELISSA BARTLETT
Senior Vice President,
Health Policy

May 13, 2026

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC), I am writing to express ERIC's support for the *Transparency in Billing Act of 2026* (H.R. 8684). Your legislation would prohibit hospitals from billing consumers or private health plans unless they provide sufficient information to allow payers to determine the site at which the care is provided. Importantly, your bill will help mitigate the ill-effects of provider consolidation on the costs of health care borne by employers and working families by helping to identify unnecessary spending and restoring fairness in health care pricing.

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 member companies offer benefits to tens of millions of employees and their families, located in every state, city, and congressional district.

Provider consolidation has contributed to problematic billing practices. Hospitals increasingly reclassify physician offices and other sites of care they own as hospital facilities to charge higher rates for the same goods and services and charge patients "facility fees" despite services not taking place on an actual hospital campus. Congress took an important first step towards addressing this issue in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026 (CAA 26)* by requiring the use of a unique National Patient Identifier (NPI) for off-campus hospital outpatient departments when billing Medicare. Your legislation builds upon this momentum to address the distortions created by differential payment structures for employer-sponsored plans that cover more than 160 million workers and their families.

We applaud your continued leadership on addressing these issues for employers and working families and strongly support this legislation. We look forward to working with you to advance the bill during the 119th Congress.

Sincerely,

Melissa Bartlett