

January 11, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell,

Every day, families across the nation find themselves forced to choose between paying for health care and basic needs like groceries and rent. This delicate balancing act jeopardizes their well-being and creates a financial instability no one should face. Similarly, employers are battling escalating health care costs that limit their ability to grow and provide critical benefits to their workers.

As the Senate continues to consider a funding package this winter, the **Alliance for Fair Health Pricing** – a non-partisan group of organizations that represents consumers, patients, employers, and physicians – urgently requests your support to address the pressing issue of escalating health care prices. High and rising prices are the primary driver of health care costs and continue to place an immense strain on American families and employers.

Recent passage of the *Lower Cost, More Transparency Act (LCMT)* by the House of Representatives, with strong, bipartisan support, provides an opportunity to give Americans some relief from high health care costs. As work continues on a larger legislative package that would advance more affordable and transparent health care prices, we urge you to consider the below provisions:

Codifying Hospital and Insurer Price Transparency Requirements: The inclusion of these provisions ensures that consumers, employers, clinicians and policymakers are empowered with information about the cost of health care. Transparency is fundamental to fostering competition and holding hospitals and health systems accountable for fair and reasonable pricing.

Site Neutral Payments for Drug Administration: Advancing site neutral payments for drug administration services is an important first step in ensuring patients are paying the same price for the same services regardless of where the service is delivered. Eliminating price differences for certain services 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.

Site of Service Billing Transparency: These provisions will help provide transparency over where patients receive care to 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 an off-site clinic or outpatient department.

Collectively, these provisions hold the potential to [generate](#) approximately \$6 billion in savings, with just under \$4 billion attributed to site-neutral drug administration services and around \$2 billion for improving billing transparency. At a time when health care costs are a significant burden on individuals, families and businesses large and small, these savings can make more than a substantial difference.

We strongly urge you to include these critical provisions of the LCMT in a forthcoming legislative package. By doing so, you will play a pivotal role in advancing more affordable and transparent health care prices – lowering health care costs for patients, consumers, and employers across the nation.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians

The Erisa Industry Committee

American Benefits Council

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Arnold Ventures

Purchaser Business Group on Health

Families USA

Small Business Majority