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for healthcare™

Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO)
Ranking Member Richard Neal (D-MA)
House Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal:

On behalf of Better Solutions for Healthcare, thank you for including bipartisan concepts from Reps. Kevin Hern (R-OK) and Ann Kuster's (D-NH) bill, Facilitating Accountability in Reimbursements Act (FAIR Act), in today's House Committee on Ways and Means markup. This bipartisan legislation aims to harmonize billing practices in off-campus hospital outpatient facilities and end hospital systems' "dishonest billing" practices.

Better Solutions for Healthcare is a coalition of leading business and healthcare organizations, including national employer groups, American Benefits Council, National Alliance for Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, Public Sector HealthCare Roundtable, and Business Group on Health, as well as hundreds of local and state business leaders. Our coalition's mission is to educate the public about the role corporate hospital systems play in driving up the cost of healthcare and support solutions to lower the prices Americans pay for care. Better Solutions supports proposals that address the root causes of high healthcare costs including anti-competitive practices like hospital consolidation, egregious price markups in hospital settings, the lack of price transparency by hospitals, and ensuring honest billing practices.

Over the last four months, six House and Senate committees have conducted a combined eleven hearings and markups scrutinizing corporate hospital systems' practices, and today's legislation offers a practical step forward to tackling Americans' skyrocketing healthcare costs by implementing processes that ensure honest billing practices. However, this is just the beginning – for patients to realize true affordability, comprehensive site-neutral reforms, like the FAIR Act and Senator Braun and Senator Hassan's Site-based Invoicing and Transparency Enhancement (SITE) Act, must be enacted.

Eliminating corporate hospital systems' dishonest billing practices would protect employers, employees, and their families from abusive billing practices and provide welcome relief from the ever-growing healthcare cost burdens. In fact, a recent study^[1] estimated that addressing dishonest billing by standardizing hospital prices for specific sets of services would save employers and employees nationally almost half a trillion dollars over the next decade.

It's no secret hospital prices in our country are out of control and continue to rise every single year, which is why this legislation should be considered by the Ways and Means Committee.

We appreciate your leadership to address the problem of hospital costs, and we urge the Ways and Means Committee to consider and pass this critical legislation to end dishonest billing.

Sincerely,
Better Solutions for Healthcare

^[1]<https://www.hfma.org/accounting-and-financial-reporting/cost-of-care/site-neutral-payments-could-reduce-healthcare-spending-by-at-lea/>