

# | better solutions | for healthcare™

Rep. John Joyce, M.D. (R-PA)  
Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)  
Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK)  
Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH)

Dear Reps. Joyce, Sarbanes, Hern, and Kuster:

On behalf of Better Solutions for Healthcare, we want to thank you for introducing legislation to end hospitals' "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.

As a coalition dedicated to educating the public about the role of corporate hospital systems in driving up healthcare costs and ways to lower the prices Americans pay for care, it's refreshing to see legislators from both sides of the aisle acknowledge the major role hospitals play in making America the most expensive country in the world to get sick.

The escalating cost of providing healthcare coverage is a primary concern of business owners year after year. Since 2015, U.S. hospital prices have increased four times faster than workers' paychecks. Hospital services now represent the largest share of total healthcare spending, accounting for 44% of total spending for privately-insured Americans. As you know, eliminating hospital dishonest billing practices would protect employers, employees, and their families from abusive billing practices and provide welcome relief from the ever-growing burden of healthcare costs.

In fact, a recent study<sup>1</sup> estimated if dishonest billing was addressed by standardizing hospital prices for specific sets of services, employers and employees would save almost half a trillion dollars over the next decade. It's no secret hospital prices in this country are out of control and continue to rise every single year. So, we want to thank you for addressing hospital systems' role in driving up the cost of our healthcare. More legislators like you should put the interests of consumers before billion-dollar hospital systems.

During this time of economic insecurity, America's business community would benefit greatly from lower healthcare costs. We hope we can count on your colleagues in Congress to pass this critical legislation to end dishonest billing. Americans depend on legislators like you to work together to address the problem of hospital costs. We stand ready to assist in advancing your legislation, and we will continue to be vocal supporters of its passage.

Sincerely,  
Better Solutions for Healthcare

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