



September 9, 2022

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Vern Buchanan
Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee
House Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Guthrie and Representative Buchanan,

Thank you for your leadership as Co-Chairs of the Healthy Future Task Force. We appreciate the work that the Task Force and its Subcommittees have done to identify and develop policies to modernize and personalize America's health care system, support innovative treatments, restore the doctor/patient relationship, and provide all Americans more affordable health care options that fit their individual needs.

The Partnership to Empower Physician-Led Care (PEPC) is a membership organization dedicated to supporting value-based care to reduce costs, improve quality, empower patients and physicians, and increase access to care for millions of Americans through a competitive health care provider market. We believe that it is impossible to achieve truly value-based care without a robust independent practice community. Our members include Aledade, American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), California Medical Association, and Medical Group Management Association (MGMA). We also have individual and small medical group supporters across the country, many of whom are independent physicians or practices and wish to remain so.

We believe that physicians – especially independent physician practices – are the lynchpin of our nation's health care system. Independent physicians have repeatedly demonstrated their superior ability to generate positive results in value-based care arrangements, both in improved health outcomes and reduced costs. In our vision of the future, this important piece of the health care system not only survives, but thrives as a result of policies that place independent physicians on a level playing field with other providers and opportunities to test new models with components that reflect their unique circumstances.

We share your belief that the primary care physician-patient relationship is most powerful when there is patient choice and provider competition within local markets. We support legislative and regulatory action that creates parity across practice settings; aligns incentives to enable a range of providers to move toward value-based care; and prohibits anti-competitive behavior such as information blocking.

In particular, we were pleased to see the Task Force's Subcommittees put forward the following recommendations:

- Remove barriers for employers to participate in advanced payment initiatives such as direct contracting, high performance networks, and centers for excellence for purchasing health care.
- Build upon the Trump Administration's site-neutrality rules and create more fairness in the payment system by passing legislation to 1) ensure CMS pays the same Medicare rates for drugs and clinic visits at physician offices and hospitals, 2) reform the inpatient-only list, and 3) end inappropriate billing practices that lead to higher costs for patients.



- Conduct congressional oversight of the Federal Trade Commission to ensure it is correctly utilizing its statutory authority to investigate harmful consolidation and promote competition.
- Build on the Trump Administration's regulatory success by taking steps to improve quality metrics providers are judged by and ensure outdated measures are being eliminated.
- Provide certainty surrounding provider reimbursement to ensure patients continue to have access to the services and care they need.

If implemented by Congress, these policies would significantly improve our health care system. We applaud you for prioritizing these important issues and look forward to working with you on our shared policy priorities.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if the Partnership to Empower Physician-Led Care can be a resource to you. I can be reached at kristen@physiciansforvalue.org.

Sincerely,

Kristen McGovern
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Larry Bucshon, M.D.
The Honorable Greg Murphy, M.D.
The Honorable Beth Van Duyne
The Honorable Kevin Hern
The Honorable Rick Allen
The Honorable Victoria Spartz