



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I am writing to express our support for the *Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2020*. Your bipartisan bill ensures that patients are protected from surprise medical bills and preserves the ability of providers and payers to negotiate a fair payment resolution without a statutory rate setting methodology.

As we have shared with the Committee in the past, CHA strongly supports protecting patients from surprise bills. We appreciate that the *Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2020* accomplishes this goal by including new safeguards in law. Patients should not be subject to financial consequences when they have unexpected and unavoidable encounters with out-of-network health care facilities and providers. They also should be removed from any subsequent payment negotiations between facilities, providers and insurers.

We support the bill's framework for resolving payment disputes between providers and health plans. The *Consumer Protections Against Surprise Medical Bills Act of 2020* allows hospitals and insurers to continue settling out-of-network payment disputes themselves, with the option of a mediated dispute resolution process if necessary. We support the committee in this approach over a statutory rate-setting methodology.

We thank you for your bipartisan leadership in crafting a fair and reasonable approach to ending the threat of surprise bills for patients. And we look forward to working with you on bipartisan solutions to improve our nation's health care system for everyone.

Sincerely,

  
Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO

CC: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee