



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate
Human Flourishing.SM*

July 22, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA)—the national leadership organization representing more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, and service providers—I am writing regarding several health care measures scheduled for consideration by the Committee.

CHA appreciates the Committee's bipartisan efforts to address critical health care challenges through targeted investments in workforce development, maternal health, and patient drug costs. Specifically, S. 380, the *Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act*; S. 1874, the *Title VIII Nursing Reauthorization Act of 2025*; and S. 4110, the *Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness (EMPOWER) for Health Act*, would help expand the health care workforce and strengthen rural maternal health care access. However, we hope the Committee will revisit the hospital and provider provisions in S. 2355, the *Patients Deserve Price Tags Act*.

CHA represents the Catholic health ministry, the largest group of not-for-profit health care providers in the nation. Last year, Catholic hospitals provided care to 1 in 7 patients, employed 750,000 people, and had more than 5 million admissions, including one million Medicaid admissions.

CHA supports the *Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act* (S. 380) because it would help protect the health of mothers and infants in rural communities by enhancing obstetric emergency preparedness, advancing access to high-quality maternal care, and supporting the Catholic health ministry's commitment to accompanying women and families throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and beyond. Additionally, CHA strongly supports the *Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025* (S. 1874) and the *EMPOWER for Health Act* (S. 4110) as critical investments in the future health care workforce, expanding training opportunities for nurses and much-needed primary care specialists while helping address persistent workforce shortages that threaten access to care in communities nationwide.

At the same time, we have concerns with S. 2355, the *Patients Deserve Price Tags Act*, and look forward to working with the Committee to address these concerns and strengthen the bill. Catholic hospitals and health systems support transparency and affordability efforts that help patients understand their health care costs and make informed decisions. However, many

hospitals are already subject to extensive federal price transparency requirements, and S. 2355 would impose significant new statutory mandates, reporting obligations, and compliance requirements on hospitals and other providers. We are concerned that these requirements would increase administrative costs and divert resources away from patient care without necessarily improving the usefulness of pricing information for patients and families.

In particular, we urge the Committee to ensure that any new transparency requirements are aligned with existing federal rules, avoid duplication, recognize the complexity of health care pricing, and provide sufficient flexibility for hospitals serving diverse communities and patient populations. Federal transparency policies should focus on providing meaningful, accurate, and actionable information to patients while minimizing unnecessary administrative burden on hospitals and providers.

We thank you for your leadership on behalf of the communities we are privileged to serve. We appreciate the Committee's willingness to consider bipartisan solutions that improve access to care, train the next generation of health care professionals, and ensure that new hospital mandates do not divert resources away from patient care. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO