

September 3, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

As Congress returns from its August recess, across the country, Americans are anxiously awaiting relief from rising costs. People in every state are sounding the alarm: the cost of health care is too high, the system too complex, and relief is desperately needed. In 2025, nearly half of all Americans struggle to afford the health care they and their families need due to the high cost.¹ These high costs have left 100 million families grappling with medical debt they may never pay off.² **The undersigned organizations urge you, as leaders of this Congress, to turn the tide and prioritize improving health and lowering costs for patients, workers, employers, and states by enacting bipartisan policies to stop big health care corporations from exploiting the health system and driving up costs for everyone who relies on it.**

Recent legislation prioritized and passed by this Congress advanced policies that further threaten affordability by reducing access to coverage and care, while wholly failing to address the root causes driving unaffordable American health care in the first place, including the health care industry's anticompetitive behaviors and price gouging of families. The unchecked growth of big health care corporations and a lack of oversight over their business practices have led to monopolistic health care practices and prices, reduced access to care, worse health outcomes and lower wages for workers — a direct threat to the health and financial security of every American. Without immediate action from lawmakers to rein in the harmful business practices of these corporate health systems, our nation's health care affordability crisis will only worsen over the coming months.

As Congress resumes its legislative work, **the undersigned organizations urge you to waste no more time and to pursue pro-consumer, well-vetted, and actionable reforms to the health care system that improve transparency, promote healthy competition, and curb industry abuses in order to lower health care costs for everyone. Specifically, Congress should:**

- Enact a comprehensive same service, same price policy to stop big hospital corporations from charging more for the same routine care, and shifting patients to higher-cost care settings, saving an estimated \$157 billion over ten years.³

- Strengthen hospital and health plan price transparency by requiring all hospitals and health plans to disclose their negotiated rates in dollars and cents with no exception.
- End dishonest hospital billing to ensure that big hospital corporations are not overcharging in outpatient settings, saving an estimated \$403 million over ten years.⁴
- Prohibit anti-competitive contracting, including contracts between providers and insurers that limit patients' access to alternative sources of health care, which is estimated to save \$3.2 billion over ten years.⁵
- Require greater transparency around the role of private equity and corporate ownership in health care to ensure all Americans, including those in rural communities, have access to the health care they need at a price they can afford.

If enacted, these policies would set a critical foundation for reining in rising health care industry consolidation and unjustifiably high prices. And they would save hundreds of billions of dollars in wasteful government spending that could instead be reinvested into critical improvements across the health care system.

All of the above policies have bipartisan support, and several previously passed the House of Representatives on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis as part of the *Lower Costs, More Transparency Act* in 2023. You have an opportunity this year to finish the job and challenge the entrenched interests that help make health care unaffordable. This is especially critical as big hospital corporations and private equity backed industry players are attempting to leverage this political moment to protect their profits and further entrench their anticompetitive business model – one that allows them to use their outsized market power to skyrocket health care prices for families with no accountability.

Consumers are eager for Congress to stand up for them – not big health care corporations – and to do all you can to finally deliver on your promises to lower costs and improve health care. We stand ready to support you in this essential and urgently needed work. Please contact Jane Sheehan, Deputy Senior Director of Government Relations at Families USA (JSheehan@familiesusa.org), for further information and to let us know how we can best be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Families USA
 ACA Consumer Advocacy
 Access Care Anywhere
 AFSCME
 Aging Life Care Association
 AJL Community Health LLC
 Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
 Center for Elder Law and Justice, New York
 Ceres Community Project
 Clear Health Care Advocacy

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Community Catalyst
Consumers for Affordable Healthcare, Maine
Consumers for Quality Care
Consumers Service Society of New York
Doctors for America
Doctors Council SEIU
El Centro, Inc.
Family to Family Network
Floridians for Accountability in Health Care
Georgia Watch
Gerontological Association of America
Health Access California
Health Care TN
Health Care Voices
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Justice in Aging
Kentucky Voices for Health
Kintegra Family Medicine
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Midwest Business Group on Health
Moms Rising
National Advocacy Center-Sisters of the Good Shepard
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National Association of Social Workers
National Consumers League
Nevada Business Group on Health
New Jersey Citizen Action
North Carolina Business Coalition on Health
North Carolina Justice Center
Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral Health
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Progress Iowa
SEIU 32BJ Health Fund
Serving At-Risk Families Everywhere
Small Business Majority
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Justice Center
Texas Business Group on Health
The United Methodist Church

Third Way
Valley Health Alliance, Colorado
West Virginians for Affordable Healthcare
Whole Washington

¹ KFF, *Americans' Challenges with Health Care Costs*, July 11, 2025. <https://www.kff.org/health-costs/issue-brief/americans-challenges-with-health-care-costs/>

² Noam N. Levey, "100 Million People in America Are Saddled With Health Care Debt," KFF Health News, June 16, 2022, <https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/diagnosis-debt-investigation-100-million-americans-hidden-medicaldebt/>.

³ Options for Reducing the Deficit: 2025 to 2034 (Congressional Budget Office, December 2024), <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-12/60557-budget-options.pdf>.

⁴ "Estimated Direct Spending and Revenue Effects of H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act: As posted on the website of the Clerk of the House on December 5, 2023," Congressional Budget Office, December 8, 2023, https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2023-12/hr5378-DS-and-Revs_12-2023.pdf.

⁵ "S. 2840, Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act: As reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on November 8, 2024," Congressional Budget Office, November 8, 2024, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-02/s2840.pdf>; "Noncompetes: What You Should Know", Federal Trade Commission, 2023, <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/features/noncompetes>.