



June 4, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

Thank you for holding a hearing on “Investing in American’s Health Care.” The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) appreciates the opportunity to share its thoughts with you on the proposed legislation.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation’s healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, post-acute care providers, home care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

Public Health Programs

HLC supports the proposed legislation to continue funding for several public health programs. These programs include funding for community health centers, workforce programs, special diabetes program, and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). We believe that a well-trained, fully resourced, and strategically deployed healthcare workforce is crucial for identifying, assessing, and treating individuals with chronic conditions or functional limitations. Care and health outcomes can be improved, and the costs of care reduced, through an adequate physician workforce and expanded training and deployment of allied health professionals and community health workers. Additionally, we have long supported increased funding for

PCORI. This institute has proven to be a leading edge organization in helping patients, clinicians, and policy makers make informed health decisions.

Medicare and Medicaid Programs

Medicare and Medicaid both serve as vital programs to provide health insurance for seniors, the disabled, and people of low income. HLC appreciates the effort to extend funding for entities' such as the National Quality Forum, that support quality measurement and performance improvement, and outreach and assistance for low income programs. Additionally, we support the repeal of Medicaid disproportionate share hospital reductions.

We believe that the proposed legislation is beneficial to improve the healthcare of all Americans. The extension of these programs protects individuals who need healthcare the most, specifically, high-need patients who account for over 50 percent of healthcare spending. These proposed bills will improve the overall health of high-need patients, along with reducing healthcare costs. HLC urges Congress to consider these proposed legislative bills as a solution to improve and strengthen our healthcare system going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation. HLC looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you on these important issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at (202) 449-3435 or dwitchey@hlc.org.

Sincerely,



Mary R. Grealy
President