



July 11, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I write regarding this afternoon's Ways & Means Committee mark-up of health savings account (HSA) legislation and the Personal Health Investment Today (PHIT) Act. HLC appreciates the opportunity to share its thoughts with you on these important issues.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from every corner of the American healthcare system. 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 healthcare 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, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

To give consumers freedom and choice in their healthcare, HLC strongly supports efforts to increase use of and provide greater flexibility with HSAs. Increasing the flexible use of these accounts will better equip consumers with tools to manage their personal funds and healthcare expenses. There are now 20 million Americans with HSAs, with significant enrollment growth of 13% in 2015 and 20% in 2016. Consumer demand for increased HSA offerings is likely to continue to keep rising, and statutory reforms are needed to accommodate medical advances and ensure that HSA's work well for patients and their families.

HLC also supports the PHIT Act. As we know, American society has changed over the last 50 years, and physical activity is no longer built into the daily lives of most Americans. This lack of physical activity has contributed to the obesity crisis and the increase in chronic disease. It is important to address this problem with the cost of chronic disease treatment on the rise and the Department of Health and Human Services reporting that eight of the ten most expensive medical conditions in America are more common in the sedentary population.

We thank you for your leadership in considering legislation that will improve healthcare access. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at (202) 449-3435 or [dwitchey@hlc.org](mailto:dwitchey@hlc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary R. Grealy".

Mary R. Grealy  
President