



August 1, 2018

The Honorable Gregg Harper
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
House Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
House Energy and Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harper and Ranking Member DeGette:

The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) applauds the subcommittee's examination last month of state efforts to improve transparency of healthcare costs for consumers.

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 health 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, pharmacies, post-acute care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach. Through this diversity, we develop a nuanced perspective on the impact of any legislation or regulation affecting the delivery and quality of healthcare. We believe value-based transformation will lead to significant improvements in quality, safety and care coordination.

In tandem with transitioning from volume-based payments to value-based care, we recommend the committee explore ways to increase access to healthcare cost information. Greater availability of this data has the potential to allow for exciting new advances in the practice, delivery, and administration of healthcare. HLC supports the bipartisan effort to deliver accurate healthcare cost and quality information to consumers, yet we believe price transparency is a complex issue and we encourage thoughtful deliberation and further discussion to ensure consumers are receiving relevant and accurate information.

HLC envisions a future in which public and private sector healthcare organizations securely share information in an efficient, effective manner that utilizes standard formats and is useful to consumers. HLC members have already individually proven that they can harness data to improve care and value in healthcare. Now, we see an opportunity to work collectively toward a future of better healthcare and health by improving the accessibility and quality of health data to accelerate progress in medicines, technologies, and healthcare delivery.

Transparency of healthcare costs must provide information that is of practical use to consumers to allow them to make the best healthcare decisions. It is critically important that consumers be

able to understand any information that is made available. Currently, much of the data in the Medicare claims database would not meet this test as it is not representative of the actual cost a consumer would pay out-of-pocket.

Any sharing of cost data with consumers should be released alongside accurate information on quality to drive true value in healthcare. HLC members are continually innovating to drive higher quality and better value in healthcare. We urge Congress to take a thoughtful, deliberate approach to the release of cost and quality data to ensure that consumers can make a decision about their healthcare based on relevant and accurate information.

HLC's vision of improving data access and quality to achieve better health outcomes is detailed in our data policy principles, which are included with this letter.

HLC and its members stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to increase transparency of healthcare costs for consumers.

Please feel free to reach out to Tina Grande, Senior Vice President for Policy at the Healthcare Leadership Council at (202) 449-3433 or tgrande@hlc.org, with any questions or for additional details on any of the topics mentioned above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Mary R. Grealy
President

Enclosure: HLC's Data Policy Principles