



June 6, 2018

The Honorable Peter Roskam
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Roskam:

Thank you for holding a hearing on consumer-directed health plans. The Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) appreciates the opportunity to share its thoughts with you on this important issue.

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, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

To give consumers choice and flexibility in their healthcare, HLC strongly believes that the Subcommittee should support the expanded use of consumer-directed health plans. Restoring options and increasing the flexibility of health savings accounts (HSAs), as well as repealing the limitations on contributions to HSAs and flexible spending accounts (FSAs), will provide consumers with better tools to manage their funds and cover healthcare expenses.

HLC is pleased to support H.R. 5138, the "Bipartisan HSA Improvement Act." Introduced by Subcommittee members Mike Kelly and Earl Blumenauer, this important legislation would assist the more than 20 million Americans who have an HSA. The bill would modernize HSA plans by:

- Allowing pre-deductible coverage of services at onsite employee clinics and retail health clinics;

- Enabling pre-deductible coverage for services and medications that manage chronic health conditions;
- Clarifying that employers can offer excepted benefits like telehealth and second opinion services to employees with an HSA; and
- Making technical changes to correct the definition of dependents, streamline FSA conversion, and fix the prohibition on spouse usage of HSAs.

Additionally, H.R. 5138 would permit the use of HSA dollars for wellness benefits and physical activity expenses. Chronic disease prevention is an essential component of healthcare. Many of these illnesses, including obesity and diabetes, are caused by modifiable health risk behaviors such as poor nutrition and a lack of physical activity. If not prevented, these diseases and their complications raise healthcare costs. Americans need access to comprehensive and evidence-based wellness and physical activity programs that assist them in making healthy choices and preventing these diseases. “The Bipartisan HSA Improvement Act” would expand this access and make these programs more affordable.

HLC asks the Subcommittee to support H.R. 5138 and include it in its consideration of consumer-directed health plans. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at (202) 449-3435 or dwitchey@hlc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary R. Grealy".

Mary R. Grealy
President