



March 6, 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 “Strengthening Our Health Care System: Legislation to Lower Consumer Costs and Expand Access.” 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.

**H.R. 1425, State Healthcare Premium Reduction Act**

HLC believes that all Americans should have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. Congress should establish a reinsurance program as proposed in this bill with predictable, reliable, and broad-based funding. We call on Congress to enact legislation, built around robust funding for reinsurance that is adequate to ensure stability, encourage competition and lower costs for consumers. Reinsurance provisions of this legislation should be structured in a manner to bring relief to

consumers in every state. To assure its sustainability, any legislative solution must be bipartisan.

**H.R. 1386, Expand Navigators Resources for Outreach, Learning & Longevity Act**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) created Navigator programs to provide outreach, education, and enrollment assistance to consumers eligible for marketplace and Medicaid coverage and requires that they be funded by the marketplaces. Navigators are tasked with several marketplace enrollment responsibilities, including conducting public education activities to raise awareness of coverage availability on the marketplaces, and providing fair and impartial information on enrollment and financial assistance. This program has been beneficial with increasing the health insurance enrollment rate. HLC supports this legislation to restore funding to the enacted funding level and recommends HHS provide guidance to Navigators on how to effectively set enrollment goals.

**H.R. 1385, State Allowance For A Variety of Exchanges (SAVE) Act**

HLC supports improved flexibility and healthcare innovation and believes that American ingenuity is critical to achieving a healthcare system that is more efficient, more effective, and of the highest quality. The SAVE Act would restore federal funding to help states move off the federal health exchange and onto their own state-based exchange. This legislation would provide states with the flexibility needed to achieve the most effective healthcare system. States have traditionally been the primary regulators for their local markets, and they understand how best to meet their consumers' needs. HLC urges Congress to consider H.R. 1385 as an avenue 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 this important issue. If 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,



Mary R. Grealy  
President