



April 30, 2019

The Honorable James McGovern
Chairman
U.S. House Rules Committee
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
U.S. House Rules Committee
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole:

As the committee prepares to conduct a hearing on H.R. 1384, the “Medicare-For-All Act of 2019,” the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) expresses significant concerns regarding this 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.

Like you, HLC believes all Americans should have access to affordable coverage of high-quality healthcare. However, the Medicare-For-All Act of 2019 is not a practical answer to this objective. In fact, Americans are not seeking a radical overhaul of our healthcare system, nor would they be better off should it occur.

The most striking aspect of H.R. 1384 is not what it gives to millions of working families and individuals, but what it takes away. It forces everyone, no matter how much they value their current health coverage, to give up that coverage and enter into a one-size-fits-all system and would significantly increase everyone’s taxes.

Healthcare is currently in a period of significant evolution, transitioning from a fee-for-service system to one that emphasizes value, improved outcomes, elevated population health, and greater cost-efficiency. To scrap this progress in order to create a massive new government-run structure with still-unknown financing provisions would serve the interests of neither taxpayers nor patients. HLC believes that Congress should continue improving and building upon the current healthcare system instead of pursuing a single payer system that would set back patient-centered health innovation instead of advancing it. These improvements could include:

- Establishing a permanent health reinsurance program to help lower premiums for all consumers in the individual insurance market.
- Encouraging states to establish their own reinsurance programs, perhaps through state waivers in which the reinsurance program is partially funded by federal pass-through savings.
- Revising federal assistance to help more people afford coverage through premium tax credits in addition to cost-sharing protections to help lower-income consumers' access medical care.
- Increasing federal funding for outreach and awareness to encourage consumers to purchase and maintain health insurance coverage.
- Fixing the family glitch in which the cost to add family members to an individual's employer-sponsored health insurance is not considered when determining "affordability."
- Offering employers and consumers better choices for their coverage, increasing competition in the market place (e.g., value-based insurance designs).
- Modernizing health plans that are linked to health savings accounts.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns regarding H.R. 1384, the "Medicare-For-All Act of 2019." 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.

Sincerely,



Mary R. Grealy
President