

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers Chair, Committee on Energy & Commerce 2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie Chair, Health Subcommittee 2434 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. Ranking Member, Committee on Energy & Commerce 2322 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee 272 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member Pallone, Chair Guthrie, and Ranking Member Eshoo:

On behalf of healthcare consumers across America, thank you for your bold leadership and commitment to making healthcare price transparency and its unequivocal enforcement a reality in this country. Unfortunately, our latest <u>compliance report</u> found that only one-quarter of hospitals are fully complying with the Hospital Price Transparency Rule. The remaining hospitals posted incomplete price files that are missing key pricing data, including discounted cash prices and prices by every payer and plan accepted.

Upfront prices will protect patients from financial ruin and give them remedy and recourse to fight overcharges. With full compliance by all hospitals and health insurers, price transparency will introduce competition into our opaque healthcare market, driving prices down and giving patients the ability to shop for the best quality at the lowest price. Until then, however, hospitals will continue to get away with charging whatever they want.

The widespread lack of price transparency harms American patients, businesses, and our economy every day, leading more than 100 million Americans into medical debt, and many into bankruptcy. Many of these patients were overcharged with price-gouging, erroneous, or even fraudulent bills. Many were sent to court, had their hard-earned wages garnished, or had liens put on their homes.

Healthcare price transparency is an issue backed by 90% of Americans. We are supporting your efforts to achieve true healthcare price transparency and raise awareness around this important cause by creating a powerful campaign launching nationwide this week. The <u>Patient Voices campaign</u> features American patients who face extraordinary medical bills that could have been avoided had they known the upfront price of their healthcare. These patients are by no means the exception. Rather, they represent and speak for countless patients and families all across America who are suffering under the burdensome and excessive medical bills, unknown and opaque prices, and unaccountable healthcare institutions.

Please take a few minutes to view <u>these patient stories</u>. We will be filming many more and distributing them through paid media, social media, and on our website. We look forward to the upcoming Energy & Commerce Committee hearing, where, through your leadership, these patients and the millions like them will have a voice.

Warmest Regards,

Cynthia Q. fisher

Cynthia A. Fisher Founder and Chairman PatientRightsAdvocate.org

CC: House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee Encl: PatientRightsAdvocate.org Patient Voices Campaign