

**TAXPAYERS
PROTECTION
ALLIANCE**

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Cc: Rep. Steny Hoyer; Rep. Steve Scalise; Rep. Frank Pallone; Rep. Virginia Foxx; Rep. Bobby Scott; Chief of Staff Mark Meadows

We, the undersigned 27 groups, representing millions of taxpayers, consumers and seniors across the United States, urge you to oppose proposed policies that would cripple our healthcare system and place onerous government price controls on doctors.

As we face the greatest challenge this country has witnessed in many generations, now more than ever it is essential that policies are enacted that put patients and doctors first. At a time when we need to ensure the needs of healthcare professionals are being met, it is deeply disturbing that special interest groups are still seeking to promote legislation which will short change our frontline medical workers and lead to reduced accessibility to healthcare through the nationwide consolidation of healthcare facilities.

Proposals with "rate-setting" (price controls) are designed to address "surprise billing," but would have bureaucrats micromanaging the relationships between patients and their doctors and force physicians to accept government mandated price controls on the cost of their procedures. Rate-setting would actually make the problem worse and set the stage for even narrower insurance networks. Calls to have the federal government dictate prices and reimbursements paid to providers will do nothing to address this pressing problem and will only leave patients with fewer choices at a time of unprecedented chaos in the healthcare system. Rate-setting would result in a whole host of negative consequences, particularly for healthcare in rural areas. More than 100 rural hospitals have shut their doors over the past ten years and driving physician reimbursements even lower would hamper care even more for COVID-19 patients.

Rate-setting has already been tried in California. The result has been nothing short of disastrous, leading to shortages of doctors and fewer choices for patients across the Golden State. Care access complaints are up nearly 50 percent in California since the introduction of rate-setting and doctors are openly contemplating leaving the state altogether. Rolling out such a policy out nationally would multiply these problems at a time when doctors and patients have enough to worry about. This flawed rate-setting approach continues to be advanced and advocated for by some members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee, the House Energy & Commerce Committee, and the House Education & Labor Committee. Despite these misguided calls for price-fixing, we urge you to pay heed to the struggles of millions of healthcare workers at such a difficult time and oppose any and all rate-setting proposals.

As you continue to consider further legislative responses to help those affected by COVID-19, we strongly urge you to reject further government interference in the healthcare system and instead focus on policies that will help the countless doctors risking their own lives to save the lives of others.

Sincerely,





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Executive Director
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Christopher Sheeron
President
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President
AMAC Action

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