



NO SURPRISES:

PEOPLE AGAINST UNFAIR MEDICAL BILLS

December 13, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of *No Surprises: People Against Unfair Medical Bills*, representing patients, consumers, and workers, we write to offer our strong support for the bipartisan, bicameral compromise legislation to end “surprise billing” that was recently introduced by Senator Alexander and Representatives Pallone and Walden as part of the *Lower Health Care Costs Act*. We are pleased to see bipartisan action being taken to ensure that families will not have to go bankrupt if they have to go to the hospital or visit a doctor due to a surprise bill. We urge Congress to pass this legislation before the end of the year.

This legislation is incredibly important to our nation’s families. **With more than 10,000 families getting hit with surprise medical bills every day, it is vital that protections from surprise bills are enacted immediately. Recent [polling](#) sponsored by Families USA indicates that nearly 9 in 10 voters support legislation to protect patients from surprise out-of-network medical bills.ⁱ Further delay on an issue that has been debated by Congress for an entire year is unacceptable.**

These surprise billing protections represent the most significant consumer protections since the passage of the Affordable Care Act. These protections are now in your hands. You must decide whether to act now to protect families from financial ruin or allow Wall Street private equity firms to continue lining their pockets. The surprise billing provisions include strong consumer protections such as air ambulance protections, improved transparency and a reimbursement methodology that will help to ensure reasonable costs for related services and will not lead to inflation of health care costs.

We are extremely grateful for the tireless effort from the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the leadership of Sens. Alexander and Murray, Reps. Pallone and Walden, Sens. Cassidy and Hassan, and Reps. Ruiz and Bucshon. ***We urge Congress to pass the bipartisan, bicameral surprise billing compromise bill before the end of the year. It is time for policymakers to act swiftly on behalf of consumers, patients, and workers across the country.***

Sincerely,

Families USA
AFSCME
Americans for Financial Reform
American Kidney Fund
American Medical Student Association
Arthritis Foundation
Community Catalyst
Consumer Reports
Health Care for America Now
MomsRising
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Consumers League
National Partnership for Women and Families
Public Citizen
Voices for Progress

cc: Rep. Bobby Scott, Chair, House Education and Labor Committee
Rep. Frank Pallone, Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Rep. Richard Neal, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Sen. Lamar Alexander, Chair, Senate HELP Committee
Rep. Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, House Education and Labor Committee
Rep. Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Rep. Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee
Sen. Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee
Sen. Bill Cassidy
Sen. Maggie Hassan
Rep. Raul Ruiz
Rep. Larry Bucshon

ⁱ <https://familiesusa.org/resources/families-usa-surprise-medical-bills-national-survey/>