

June 21, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Murray:

On behalf of the members of HR Policy Association, I write in support of the Lower Health Care Costs Act (S. 1895) to address surprise medical billing and increase transparency in the nation's health care system.

The HR Policy Association is the leading organization representing chief human resource officers of over 390 of the largest employers in the United States. Collectively, their companies provide health care coverage to over 20 million employees and dependents in the United States and spend more than \$120 billion annually on health care benefits and related taxes. Over the past 15 years, large employers have worked hard to provide high value networks at the lowest possible cost, to mitigate surprise medical bills for their employees, retirees, and dependents, and to provide the best possible price and quality data to participants in their health plans so they can make informed health decisions.

We applaud your decision to address surprise bills with a fair market-based benchmark rate based on the median negotiated in-network reimbursement rate paid by the health plan to the same or similar providers in the geographic market. We urge you to reject efforts to include any arbitration process or independent dispute resolution process in the bill.

The provisions addressing surprise bills related to air ambulance services are also appreciated.

The HR Policy Association is committed to finding solutions to reduce costs rising health care costs for all payers. We look forward to working with you to ensure the final measure achieves its purpose and enables companies to continue to provide the high-quality health care benefits at the lowest possible cost.

Sincerely,



D. Mark Wilson  
Vice President, Health & Employment Policy