



December 21, 2018

Dear Congressional and Committee Leadership:

On behalf of our member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH) appreciate your leadership to find solutions that shield patients from the financial burdens of unexpected gaps in coverage that can result in surprise bills. Our members are committed to finding a legislative solution that first and foremost protects patients.

We strongly believe that any public policy solution to resolve surprise bills must protect patients by prohibiting balance billing and by limiting patients' cost-sharing to an in-network amount.

The AHA and the FAH are working together and with our respective memberships to develop specific solutions to these challenges. We are evaluating issues including, but not limited to:

- How we protect the broadest range of patients, including those in self-insured plans;
- How cost-sharing should be determined for out-of-network care so that patients have certainty about their financial obligations;
- The role of network adequacy requirements and enforcement in ensuring patients have sufficient access to in-network care; and
- Once the patient is protected, whether policy interventions are needed to determine fair provider payment.

We appreciate that this is a high priority issue for Congress, as it is for us, and we intend to provide more specific feedback to policymakers early in the new Congress.

We look forward to opportunities to discuss these solutions and work together to achieve them.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard J. Pollack'.

Richard J. Pollack
President & CEO
American Hospital Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles N. Kahn III'.

Charles N. Kahn III
President & CEO
Federation of American Hospitals