



**December 11, 2023**

**The Honorable Mike Johnson**  
568 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries**  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Steve Scalise**  
2049 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Katherine Clark**  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Tom Emmer**  
464 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Scalise, Majority Whip Emmer, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Whip Clark,

On behalf of United States of Care (USofCare), and the everyday people across the country who desire durable, common sense solutions to our nation's health care affordability crisis, we write to encourage the U.S. House of Representatives to pass **H.R. 5378, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act**,<sup>1</sup> legislation that will lower health care prices by requiring site-neutral payment reform and improved price transparency. Households across the country face unbridled and unsustainable price increases in health care overall, and this legislation takes meaningful steps toward realigning the financial incentives that drive prices up for people, taxpayers, and stakeholders throughout the US health care system. **Passage of the bipartisan Lower Costs, More Transparency Act will provide people with the pricing transparency they need to make informed decisions about their health care and sets in place critical policies to ensure people are charged fair prices for the medical care they need, regardless of where they seek it.**

USofCare is a nonpartisan nonprofit working to ensure that everyone has access to quality, affordable health care regardless of health status, social need, or income. We drive change at the state and federal levels in partnership with everyday people, business leaders, health care innovators, fellow advocates, and policymakers. Together, we advocate for policy solutions that people of every demographic tell us will bring them peace of mind and make a positive impact on their lives. From our listening work<sup>2</sup> across the country, we know that affordability is people's top concern<sup>3</sup> with the health care system:

*"We're supposed to be making informed consumer choices that would then drive health care in a better direction, because the people that are doing it right will get the money*

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<sup>1</sup> H.R. 5378 – 118th Congress (2023-2024). The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act. [Link](#).

<sup>2</sup> United States of Care. Research & Listening to People. [Link](#).

<sup>3</sup> United States of Care, United Solutions for Care: Affordability Overview. May 2022. [Link](#).

*and then people that aren't doing it right will lose the business. But we can't do that, we don't have this across-the-board transparency. That's not a little thing.”*

*~ USofCare Listening Work Focus Group Participant (White man from New York) <sup>3</sup>*

Across demographics, geography, and party affiliation, people are burdened by high health care prices. In November 2023, USofCare undertook public opinion research, including a national poll conducted by Morning Consult and focus groups facilitated by NORC at the University of Chicago, to understand the public perceptions and attitudes of everyday people when it comes to health care affordability, transparency, and prices.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the myriad of evidence previously published by credible think tanks and experts <sup>5</sup> laying out the case for site-neutral payment reforms, USofCare’s public opinion research frames for lawmakers the urgency in passing the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act and the overwhelming public support from voters to do so.

★ **Overwhelmingly, voters believe that health care is too expensive.**

- Consistent across party affiliation, **75% of voters rate the cost of health care in the U.S. as “only fair” or “poor.”** Put another way, 3 in 4 voters nationwide believe that health care is unaffordable.<sup>4</sup>
- **The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act** requires site-neutral payments for drug administration services under Medicare, which will translate into lower costs for patients, such as those who are high-need and receiving chemotherapy, by saving them more than \$1,000 in cost sharing per year.<sup>6</sup>

★ **Voters across party lines and demographics overwhelmingly support specific policies that require more transparency within the health system.**

- 81% of voters support lawmakers requiring medical providers to disclose their facility fees upfront to patients before they are seen.<sup>4</sup>
- 81% of voters support lawmakers requiring big corporate hospitals to report data on facility fees, including how much revenue they are collecting from facility fees.
- **The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act** requires all hospitals and health systems post underlying prices for services in a standardized, machine-readable format that will bring about needed transparency for everyday people and other stakeholders.

★ **A majority of voters experience a strong sense of unfairness when encountering hospital facility fees that inflate the cost of their care on top of routine, outpatient, same-day care they are otherwise accustomed to receiving.**

- 70% of voters across demographics (such as age, racial background, and language) believe that having patients pay facility fees is unfair, with 47% deeming facility fees as “very unfair.”<sup>4</sup>
- **The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act** requires the use of National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) so that everyone has greater visibility into the types of charges and billing practices occurring at off-site campuses and facilities affiliated with larger health systems and hospitals. NPIs are an essential step toward demystifying hospital

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<sup>4</sup> United States of Care, “People Agree that Health Care is Too Expensive & Demand Lawmakers Take Action to Lower Costs, Limit Fees, and Increase Hospital Billing Transparency.” December 2023. [Link](#).

<sup>5</sup> MedPAC, “June 2020 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System.” June 15, 2020. [Link](#).

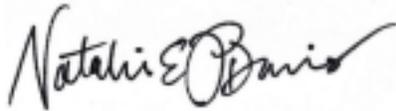
<sup>6</sup> Bulat, Tim et al., “Potential Impacts of Medicare Site Neutrality on Off-Campus Drug Administration Costs.” Actuarial Research Corporation. October 18, 2023. [Link](#).

billing practices system-wide so that future policymaking can truly address the underlying incentives driving up health care prices for everyday people.

The time to address the skyrocketing cost of health care is long-overdue. Our research reinforces that people should feel confident that they are paying the same price for the same service, regardless of where they are receiving it. The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act takes a critical step toward that vision. USofCare remains committed to pushing for additional reforms that extend site-neutral payments across all appropriate services and markets in pursuit of a more affordable health care system for everyone.

**Thank you for responding to people's demands for more affordable and transparent hospital pricing standards by advancing the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act for a vote by the full House of Representatives. We encourage the House of Representatives to swiftly pass this legislation and enact common sense health care transparency and payment policies.** If you have any questions about USofCare or our work to make health care more affordable, please reach out with any questions to Lisa Hunter, Senior Director of Policy & External Affairs, at [lhunter@usofcare.org](mailto:lhunter@usofcare.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "N" and "D".

**Natalie Davis**  
Co-Founder & CEO  
United States of Care