

# FEDERAL PRIORITIES

## FOR ADVANCING DURABLE, PEOPLE-CENTERED HEALTH CARE SOLUTIONS

USofCare is a non-partisan health care advocacy organization committed to ensuring that health care in this country can better meet the needs of everyday people. We drive durable, people-centered policy change at both the state and federal level and prioritize solutions people desire to address their challenges with the health care system.

People consistently express feeling burdened by high health care costs and want a health care system that works to keep them healthy rather than only treating them when they are sick. USofCare encourages lawmakers to advance the following reforms to build a better health care system that centers people:

- 1 Reduce the High Cost of Health Care Through Reforms that Enable Competition, Choice, and Transparency Across the Hospital Sector
- 2 Support Patient-Centered Delivery System Transformation and Innovative Care Reforms
- 3 Improve Availability of High-Quality, Affordable Health Care Coverage
- 4 Reduce Systemic Barriers to Digital Health Care to Build a More Fair Health Care System

### Reduce The High Cost Of Health Care Through Reforms That Enable Competition, Choice, And Transparency Across The Hospital Sector



- Eliminate hospital payment disparities and disincentivize unfair billing practices, including by eliminating exemptions to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 and require site-neutral payments under Medicare.
- Align payment rates for independent physician offices and Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs) for services that can be delivered safely in an alternative setting, as currently recommended by [MedPAC](#).
- Prohibit hospital facility fees for telehealth visits and in outpatient settings, including banning facility fees for preventive services and ensuring patients have transparency about facility fee costs before the visit.
- Advance robust hospital billing transparency requirements including by requiring unique National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) for providers and enforcing compliance of existing transparency requirements and other patient protections.



## Support Patient-Centered Delivery System Transformation Through Innovative Care And Reimbursement Reforms

- Advance the transition away from fee-for-service models and towards innovative patient-centered payment models that aligns with patient-first care principles and that prioritizes high-quality patient outcomes, sustainable health care financing, and overall improved care for people.
- Address primary care workforce and health care provider access shortages in medically underserved communities by establishing reimbursement policies that stabilize and strengthen the nation's health care provider infrastructure.



## Give People Options For Maintaining High-Quality, Affordable Health Care

- Increase access to primary care and expand access to safety net care by including more providers and provider types in plan networks that have been proven to improve health outcomes.
- Extend enhanced tax credits for people buying private health coverage so they continue to have choices for high-quality and affordable coverage options.
- End out-of-pocket costs for basic health care services, including preventive services, mental health care, telehealth and primary care visits.
- Improve access to high-quality postpartum care services for new mothers during the postpartum period by expanding coverage for maternal mental health and virtual care services regardless of insurance types.



## Enable Digital Health Care Tools That Will Build A More Fair And Healthy System

- Promote better access to telehealth and virtual care especially for rural communities and older adults through permanent expansion of telehealth flexibilities and requiring payers to cover all methods of appointments whether by video or audio-only.
- Ensure that new digital health technology, including artificial intelligence, works for everyone and does not exacerbate the digital divide.