

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Anthony Gonzalez
U.S. House of Representatives
2458 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gonzalez:

On behalf of the 36 hospitals we serve in Northeast Ohio, we are writing to request your support for a time-sensitive issue important to the hospital community. Please consider signing on to a bipartisan letter that Reps. Brad Wenstrup and Tom Suozzi are circulating urging the Departments of HHS, Treasury, and Labor to revise the regulation implementing the surprise medical billing law to align with Congressional intent. **Signatures are being requested by close of business today.**

The Center for Health Affairs supports the *No Surprises Act* passed by Congress last year to protect Americans from unexpected medical bills resulting from gaps in their coverage and that sets up an independent dispute resolution (IDR) process to allow payers and providers to negotiate mutually agreeable solutions when out-of-network charges occur. However, we are concerned that the regulation implementing the law flies against the intent of the *No Surprises Act* by starting with the presumption that the median in-network rate is the appropriate payment, which heavily tilts the decisions in favor of plans and insurers.

The letter being circulated by Reps. Wenstrup and Suozzi urges the Departments to align the regulations with Congressional intent by specifying that the certified IDR entity should not default to the median in-network rate and should instead consider all factors outlined in the statute without disproportionately weighting one. We hope you will consider adding your name to this letter to protect the original intent of this important legislation.

As always, thank you for your consideration.



Brian G. Lane
President & CEO



Christine C. Dodd
Executive Director, Member Programming