



May 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The 28 undersigned organizations, representing millions of patients and consumers across the country who face serious, acute, and chronic health conditions again call on Congress to immediately enact legislation to permanently end all surprise medical billing.

For many months, Congress has had major bipartisan legislation in hand that would comprehensively shield patients and consumers from surprise medical bills however, it has yet to move this critical legislation forward. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 virus continues to impact providers and facilities across the country, forcing patients with chronic and serious conditions who require ongoing treatment to shift providers and/or facilities, or delay treatment altogether – increasing the likelihood that they will

receive a surprise bill. Patients should not be subjected to surprise bills at any time, let alone during a public health crisis.

Now more than ever, patients need protection from surprise medical bills. We urge you and your congressional colleagues to move quickly to include comprehensive protections for patients and consumers in the fourth legislative package to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this critical issue with our organizations further, please contact Katie Berge of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at katie.berge@lls.org.

Sincerely,

ALPHA-1 FOUNDATION

ALS Association

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

American Kidney Fund

American Lung Association

Arthritis Foundation

Cancer Support Community

CancerCare

Chronic Disease Coalition

COPD Foundation

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Family Voices

Hemophilia Federation of America

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Health Council

National Hemophilia Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Patient Advocate Foundation

National Psoriasis Foundation

Susan G. Komen

The American Liver Foundation

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease