



December 4, 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 once again call on Congress to immediately enact legislation to permanently end all forms of surprise medical billing.

For more than a year, Congress has had major bipartisan bills in hand that would comprehensively shield patients and consumers from surprise medical bills, however Congress has yet to move critical legislation forward.

Patients with serious and chronic conditions routinely require medical treatment to maintain their health. However, during the pandemic, patients are being asked to shift their care to different providers

and facilities to minimize exposure or to ensure patients with COVID have the ability to seek and receive treatment away from those who may be at risk of infection. These shifts, while necessary to contain the virus, may result in out-of-network care – increasing consumers’ risk of receiving a surprise medical bill. Fear of exorbitant costs and surprise medical bills should not keep patients and consumers away from care for treatment of COVID-19 or any other underlying medical condition.

Now more than ever, amid recent media reports that patients are receiving surprise medical bills stemming from COVID treatment¹, it is urgent that Congress act now to enact bipartisan, bicameral legislation to protect patients from surprise medical bills. Our patients are frustrated that they continue to be exposed to this predatory practice at a time when they are extremely concerned about their physical and financial wellbeing.

As we have called for previously this year ([April 8](#), [April 14](#), [May 21](#), [July 30](#)), we once again urge you and your congressional colleagues to move quickly to include comprehensive protections for patients and consumers in any end of the year legislative package.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this critical issue with our organizations further, please contact Josh Roll of the American Heart Association at Joshua.Roll@heart.org.

Sincerely,

ALS Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
Hemophilia Federation of America
JDRF
Mended Hearts & Mended Little Hearts
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Susan G. Komen

The AIDS Institute

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

ⁱ [A \\$52,112 Air Ambulance Ride: Coronavirus Patients Battle Surprise Bills. The New York Times. October 13, 2020.](#)