

For Immediate Release
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In case you missed it!

HHS Secretary and House Ways and Means Committee members tout benefits of site-neutral payments in reducing health care costs

During a House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee hearing this week, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and several members of the committee spoke about the ways site-neutral payment policies are lowering health care costs for Americans and addressing payment disparities.

Kennedy, when asked by Rep. Ron Estes (R-KS) about ways the administration is helping to ensure rural patients can get access to specialty care:

“I think **one of the most important things that we've done to address that very, very grave problem is the site neutrality rules**, which we have recently finalized, and that will end the disparity between what's paid to rural providers and what's paid to urban providers, and hopefully, dampen the appetite for consolidations, which are destroying rural economies and rural healthcare and allow them to get a living wage which they don't have right now.”

Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)

“It's the perverse incentives that we've allowed to persist. One simple one for me is this **disparity between what we pay hospitals and physician groups for the same outpatient service** and the effects of that are not just higher premiums on seniors in Medicare, higher cost for all of us as taxpayers, but there's a giant sucking sound of independent physician groups and docs into hospital systems leaving us with less choice.”

Kennedy, when asked by Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) about ways the committee could address consolidation and anti-competitive behavior to make health care more affordable for working people in the United States:

“10 years or 15 years ago, 80% of the doctors in our country were independent and 20% were corporate. Today, 20% are independent, 80% are corporate and the number that are independent are dropping precipitously because of the economic forces that are results of these perverse incentives. **Site-neutrality, which we're fixing, is key to that.**”

Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (R-MO)

“How is HHS championing site-neutral reforms, including policies this committee has passed to **ensure that large hospitals aren't overcharging patients and taxpayers?**”

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** strongly supports site-neutral payment reforms and transparency policies that aim to eliminate payment discrepancies based on the site-of-care. We applaud the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for finalizing rules that expand site-neutral payment policies and call on Congress to codify and expand on those efforts to lower health care costs for Americans.

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** is a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, patient advocates, employer organizations, unions, health care companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders that support employer-provided health coverage. Together, we are working to ensure that employer-provided coverage remains an available and affordable option for working Americans and their families.

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