

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** applauds the committees for including a policy to increase transparency into hospital billing practices in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026. This policy serves as an important step toward lowering health care costs for workers, employers, and the federal government.

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** is a diverse 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. The Alliance is dedicated to pursuing policies that increase competition and transparency to bring meaningful change — and cost savings — to our health care system and patients everywhere.

The **Alliance supports Section 6225 in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026: Requiring a Separate ID Number and an Attestation for Each Off-Campus Outpatient Department of a Provider.** This policy requires each off-campus hospital outpatient department (HOPD) of a Medicare provider to obtain and use a unique national provider identifier (NPI) on billing claims for services.

This layer of transparency is important because current Medicare and private health insurance payment policies make it difficult to tell whether a service was provided at a hospital or in an outpatient setting like a doctor's office, where care is usually less expensive. Hospitals that own outpatient facilities often will use the main hospital's NPI and address on all claim forms -- even when care is provided outside the hospital at a hospital-owned doctor's office or facility. This makes it look like the care was provided within the hospital's walls even if the care was provided at an off-campus HOPD miles away from the main hospital.

By requiring off-campus HOPDs of Medicare providers to obtain and use a unique NPI, Congress will help patients and payers have the data necessary to dispute erroneous fees, unfair add-on costs, hospital upcharges and other junk fees. This would result in meaningful savings for patients, payers, and the federal government. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the provision would save the federal government \$403 million over a 10-year period.

We thank you for your leadership and your work to advance policies to lower health care costs for working families. We look forward to working together to advance public policy that makes health care more affordable, supports continued innovation, improves job-based coverage, and advances the health care system for all patients.

Respectfully,  
**The Alliance to Fight for Health Care**