

For Immediate Release  
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## *In Case You Missed It!*

### **Rural patients benefit from site-neutral payment reform**

A recent [infographic from Arnold Ventures](#) highlights the ways rural and critical access hospitals are protected from the effects of site-neutral payment reform.

As the infographic states, site-neutral payment policies aim to **remove a financial incentive for large hospital systems to purchase clinics and small physician practices**, “changing the logo on the door, then charging more expensive hospital prices for routine services.”

The infographic notes, “Rural residents are more often older and sicker than their urban and suburban counterparts, which is why preserving access to care is critical, but consolidation is driving up the cost of care for some rural patients.” Nationally, [Medicare data](#) has shown **Medicare beneficiaries could pay up to 4x more out-of-pocket** for care at an outpatient department than they would at an independent doctor’s office for the exact same care.

Rural and critical access hospitals provide lifesaving care to patients who often face limited care options, that is why the Medicare payment system pays critical access hospitals in rural areas based on their reported costs. As the infographic shows, the site-neutral payment reforms being considered today are restricted to hospital outpatient departments, and **only 7% of off-campus HOPD spending happens in rural areas**.

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** supports the site-neutral payment policies, which can be implemented in a way that protects rural patients from the “harmful effects of hospital consolidation, without disrupting the ability of rural hospitals to provide critical care.” We support policies included in the House-passed Lower, Costs More Transparency Act (HR 5378) that aim to eliminate payment discrepancies based on the site-of-care for certain drug administration services. **We urge the Senate to quickly take up these proposals, which have broad stakeholder support representing physicians**, employers, patient advocacy groups and more, including the Alliance to Fight for Health Care, American Benefits Council, Families USA, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, Community Oncology Alliance, US Oncology Network, National Restaurant Association, and more.

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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