

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

May 21, 2019

Subcommittee Chairman Lloyd Doggett
Ways & Means Committee, Health Subcommittee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Subcommittee Chairman Doggett,

Thank you for convening today's hearing about surprise billing. Congress and the Administration are right to protect patients from surprise medical bills by working toward a solution that reduces health care costs, increases transparency for patients and empowers states.

I'm sure many of your constituents, much like my own, have been victims of these "surprise" bills, even when they do their best to avoid them. The uncertainty surrounding the cost of health care is scary. Americans—even folks who have never missed paying a premium in their working lives—fear one bad accident could bankrupt them. I am dismayed that the various participants in our health care system have not been able to come together to protect patients from these exorbitant bills.

I hope the witnesses at today's hearing can help inform us on steps we can take to prevent these bills from burdening patients. I appreciate that a variety of perspectives are represented at this hearing, as it is important we get a full picture of the problem. Any potential federal solution should be as targeted as possible to prevent instances that result in a surprise bill.

I look forward to working together on legislation that protects and empowers patients and holds providers and insurers responsible for the role they play in sending surprise bills. I am grateful for your focus on this issue and look forward to continuing this discussion.

Sincerely,



DEVIN NUNES
Republican Leader
Ways & Means Committee
Health Subcommittee