

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1405

August 6, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
Committee on Energy & Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chair
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Chairman Smith:

As the House prepares to consider legislation on health care price transparency, I urge you to reconsider advancement of legislative text that leaves patients behind and protects the very system responsible for driving health care prices higher.

Americans deserve more than another Washington compliance exercise. While these proposals take steps towards greater disclosure, they continue to rely heavily on negotiated rates between insurance companies and health care providers, complex reporting requirements, and cost estimates rather than delivering the simple, upfront prices patients need before receiving care.

Patients should not have to navigate insurer-provider negotiations, confusing databases, or estimates that may change after treatment. They deserve to know the actual cost of care, compare prices, and choose lower-cost options. True transparency should create competition that lowers prices - not that preserves a system where powerful hospital systems and insurance companies continue to benefit from opaque pricing practices.

Unfortunately, these proposals risk funneling billions more through entrenched health care interests without delivering meaningful savings for American families. Congress should not pass legislation that strengthens the position of hospital and insurance oligopolies while patients continue to face rising prices, surprise bills, and limited choices. We have seen the consequences of poorly drafted and difficult-to-enforce legislation like the No Surprises Act, enacted in 2020,

which has led to years of litigation, administrative burdens, and implementation challenges while falling short of its intended goals.

The House has an opportunity to deliver real reform by passing legislation that puts patients at the center of health care pricing. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, by a vote of 21-1, passed the Patients Deserve Price Tags Act last month, which would require clear disclosure of all negotiated rates by hospitals as well as clinical laboratories, imaging providers, and ambulatory surgery centers. The House Committee on Education and Workforce recently approved the Health Data Access, Transparency, and Affordability Act, which would provide employers with the insurance claims data needed to probe for overbilling and other practices that raise employee premiums. These are the transparency breakthroughs we need to adopt to deliver actual prices, real competition, and lower costs for Americans.

I urge you to stand firm against efforts to weaken meaningful reform and deliver the transparency and accountability patients deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Spartz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Leader