

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Anna Eshoo**

***Hearing on “Lowering Unaffordable Costs: Legislative Solutions to Increase Transparency and Competition in Health Care.”***

**April 26, 2023**

Today, we consider 17 legislative proposals to lower costs and increase transparency in our healthcare system.

Welcome CMS Administrator Brooks-LaSure to the Subcommittee for the first time. We are very glad to have you with us.

Our last hearing on this topic showed that the U.S. spends more on healthcare than our peer countries but we have significantly worse health outcomes. Simply put, we aren’t getting the best value for our healthcare dollar.

Hospital care is the largest health spending category in the U.S., accounting for 31% of all health care spending in 2021.

Since 2000, hospital prices have increased over 200 percent and are predicted to continue rising in the coming years.

When hospital prices increase, out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries who are often on fixed incomes increase as well.

The proposals before us today raise interesting and important questions on how to lower costs and improve health outcomes, including:

- How to implement targeted site-neutral policies while protecting patient access and rural hospitals. Aligning payment rates across outpatient settings could save Medicare more than \$141 billion over 10 years, but we should heed MedPAC’s recommendation to ensure we prioritize safety and access when advancing policies.
- How to bring more transparency to the 340B program without creating unnecessary barriers; and
- How to further competition in the healthcare industry to better serve patients and decrease costs.

I’m also pleased that we’re discussing two bills that I co-led.

The *PBM Accountability Act* will finally shed a light on the opaque drug pricing system that pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) use during their dealings with manufacturers and insurance plans to make enormous profits. It will also save the federal government over \$2 billion in the next ten years.

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The *Medicaid Value-Based Payments for Patients Act* will codify a CMS rule to help ensure Medicaid enrollees have access to breakthrough gene therapies for dreaded diseases such as sickle cell anemia and certain cancers. I'm pleased to have partnered with Chairman Guthrie on this legislation, and I look forward to continuing to carefully craft and tailor it.

Finally, we're considering bipartisan legislation to codify existing price transparency rules for hospitals and insurers and prevent payment reductions to disproportionate share hospitals under the Medicaid program. I fully support these bills.

So, thank you Madame Administrator for being with us today. We look forward to your answers to our questions.