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June 23, 2023

Sabrina Corlette
Research Professor
Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy
600 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Corlette:

Thank you again for testifying at the April 26 Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions hearing on "Reducing Health Care Costs for Working Americans and Their Families."

Enclosed are additional questions submitted by Subcommittee members following the hearing. Please provide written responses no later than July 14, 2023, for inclusion in the hearing record. Responses should be sent to Michael Davis of the Committee staff who can be contacted at (202) 225-7101.

We appreciate your contribution to the work of the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Good".

Bob Good
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions

Enclosure

Questions for the Record for Sabrina Corlette

HELP Subcommittee Hearing

“Reducing Health Care Costs for Working Americans and Their Families”

April 26, 2023

10:15 a.m.

Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA)

1. As a breast cancer survivor, I know firsthand how getting the right prescription drug at the right time can make a difference in life or death. Studies among cancer patients show that utilization management tactics like step therapy don’t alter the treatment the patient ultimately gets, but it does delay the patient in accessing that treatment, reducing their chances of survival. That’s why I was proud to sponsor H.R. 2630, the Safe Step Act, to ensure that plans offer an expedient step therapy exception process.
 - a) How can employers, insurers, and pharmacy benefit managers work together to improve upon step therapy so that we can keep people alive and healthy while keeping costs down?

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)

1. Unfortunately, the final language for two of the bills discussed at this hearing was not introduced with sufficient time for careful review of the text. Now that both bills have been introduced, please provide your assessment of each:
 - a) The *Association Health Plans Act* (H.R. 2868): How does this bill change current law? What concerns do you have with this language? How would it impact costs for individuals enrolled in association health plans and the broader risk pool?
 - b) The *Self-Insurance Protection Act* (H.R. 2813): How does this bill change current law? What are potential concerns with the language in this bill that would preempt state authority to regulate stop-loss insurance?
2. Association health plans and multiple employer welfare arrangements have a long history of fraud and insolvencies. And I am deeply concerned that Republican proposals fail to learn this lesson. In the 1990s and 2000s, two separate reports by the Government Accountability Office found that insolvencies of these arrangements left thousands of people with hundreds of millions in unpaid medical bills.
 - a) Could you talk a little about the history of fraud and insolvency with respect to association health plans?

- b) Do you think that the Trump Administration's Final Rule or other Republican proposals (including H.R. 2868) to expand AHPs sufficiently address these concerns?
- 3. There is a growing, bipartisan recognition that we don't have enough information about costs in the health care system. In your testimony, you identify an important issue, which is the lack of transparency from companies that contract with employer-sponsored health plans to administer their benefits – such as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and insurance companies that serve as third-party administrators (TPAs).
 - a) What are some of the challenges that plan sponsors face when they try to get information from vendors like PBMs and TPAs? What impact does that have on health care costs?
 - b) In what ways did the *No Surprises Act* and *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* improve transparency and what are some of the next steps we should consider?

Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA)

- 1. Hospitals and hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) play a critical role in providing many communities- including my own- with reliable access to high-quality health care. What is your response to concerns that site-neutral payment policies could lead to hospital closures and reduce patients' ability to consistently access high-quality health care services, especially in rural communities?