

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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November 8, 2023

Ms. Leslie Gordon, MPP
Director, Health Care
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Gordon:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health on Thursday, October 19, 2023, to testify at the hearing entitled “What’s the Prognosis?: Examining Medicare Proposals to Improve Patient Access to Care & Minimize Red Tape for Doctors.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions and requests with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, November 22, 2023. Your responses should be mailed to Jolie Brochin, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Jolie.Brochin@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Brett Guthrie
Chair
Subcommittee on Health

cc: Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Earl L. “Buddy” Carter

- 1) Ms. Gordon - Do regulatory changes in Medicare, such as this one that enables greater flexibility in staffing, have different impacts in rural and underserved areas vs suburban or metropolitan areas? And why is that the case if so?
- 2) Ms. Gordon - In a related question, do regulations that are more restrictive than state guidelines such as the Medicare supervisory restrictions addressed in the EMPOWER Act typically have a greater negative impact on smaller private facilities and clinics than on large provider groups which typically have more staff on hand at all times?
- 3) Ms. Gordon - Do you find that reductions to payment have a disproportionately negative impact on access to services in areas that already have a shortage of health professionals, such as rural and medically underserved areas?
- 4) Ms. Gordon - In what ways does CMS fail to be transparent with physicians about measures by which they are evaluated and what can Congress do to help address that?

The Honorable Dan Crenshaw

- 1) Ms. Gordon: I read your report on the implementation of alternative payment in Medicare. Would you be able to describe for the committee some of the administrative barriers that practices face when trying to participate in an alternative payment model?
- 2) Ms. Gordon: Would you agree that administrative burdens are just as important, if not more important, than payment alone – in terms of getting docs into alternative payment?

The Honorable Debbie Dingell

- 1) Ms. Gordon, has GAO ever looked into private sector coverage of home infusion, and if so, how do costs and care quality compare between home infusion and alternative settings?

The Honorable Annie Kuster

- 1) I deeply appreciate the extensive work the GAO has done in understanding health care access in rural areas. From your research, can you briefly describe your findings about access to physical and occupational therapy services, particularly in rural areas? Additionally, have administrative burdens, which my EMPOWER Act hopes to reduce for physical and occupational therapists, ever caused challenges with accessing health care?