

June 12, 2024

The Honorable Michelle Steel 1127 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Support for H.R. 3120, the Healthy Competition for Better Care Act of 2023

Dear Congresswoman Steel,

I am writing on behalf of the Council for Affordable Health Coverage (CAHC) to express our support for H.R. 3120, the Healthy Competition for Better Care Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation represents a significant opportunity to enhance competition in the healthcare sector, improve quality of care, and lower costs for all Americans.

CAHC advocates for policies that promote affordability, accessibility, and innovation in healthcare. We believe fostering competition is essential to achieving these objectives and creating a healthcare system that works for everyone. Health costs are too high and rising too fast. If current trends persist, the typical American family will spend 40 percent or more of their income on health care.

This is not sustainable.

Anti-competitive practices drive up health costs, premiums, and out-of-pocket costs while limiting consumers' choices. H.R. 3120 offers a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges facing our healthcare system, and empowering consumers with greater choice and control over their healthcare decisions. We especially appreciate the requirement to grants discounts or incentives for enrollees who choose high-quality, low-cost providers and the requirement to allow employers to contract with hospitals and doctors without being forced to contract with all facilities or offices in a system. The provision allowing exceptions for group model issuers, including value-based network arrangements, will help promote flexibility and lower costs and is an important innovation in the bill.

We commend you for your leadership in introducing this legislation and your commitment to advancing bipartisan solutions to foster greater competition and empower consumers in our healthcare system. By promoting competition and innovation, the Healthy Competition for Better Care Act of 2023 has the potential to deliver tangible benefits to patients, providers, and employers alike, ensuring that all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare coverage and services. We encourage all Members of Congress to cosponsor the bill because it will positively impact the lives of millions of Americans, ensuring that they have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford.

CAHC looks forward to working with you to advance the Healthy Competition for Better Care Act this year, so consumers have a more competitive and patient-friendly healthcare system in the future.

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Joel C. White President