

June 20, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Secretary Alex M. Azar II
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Secretary Alexander Acosta
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Administrator Seema Verma
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Don Rucker, MD
Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20416

RE: Physicians Supporting Real Price Transparency in Healthcare

Dear President Trump:

We, signing independently, are 3,969 physicians who make caring for patients our professional priority. We are distressed and disheartened by how America's healthcare system is failing them. Many of us have witnessed our system, once the best in the world, degenerate to the point where it now threatens the fundamental doctor-patient relationship. We have unwittingly become part of a system that harms patients by denying them access to affordable care -- something we doctors took an oath never to do.

However, we are encouraged by this Administration's efforts to change that, specifically your resolve to achieve true price transparency in healthcare.

In no other industry do consumers buy products or services without knowing the price. Yet every day Americans go into healthcare settings with blank checks and no way of knowing what their non-negotiable bill will be until it arrives days later. The news is often devastating.

Physicians Supporting Real Price Transparency in Healthcare

Two-thirds of Americans who declare bankruptcy have substantial unpaid medical bills. Your proposed measures to help consumers know the price of care before they receive it would let patients shop, compare, and make healthy decisions. They could know, for example, that having a baby at one hospital would cost them \$5,000 and at another \$42,000.

Hospitals and insurance companies keep doctors in the dark, too. While insurers and hospitals argue that posting prices simply isn't feasible, we disagree. In this digital day of Google, Amazon, and Uber, creating real-time price lists isn't as hard as those who benefit from keeping prices in the dark would have you believe. And real prices, *not* averages, are what we need to create a competitive market.

Making real prices easy to access would not only create informed consumers, but would also drive down prices by fueling competition, force the industry to eliminate the middlemen in pharma, health administration and insurance, and help reverse the unhealthy trend of healthcare consolidation. As we pursue excellence in medicine as a country, once patients know prices, they will also seek to shop on outcomes, quality, and value.

Lack of transparency, middlemen, and medical mergers are the trifecta driving up prices, and reducing quality of and access to care.

We physicians are sick of being used by a system that is profiting off our backs at the expense of our patients. We have the skill to provide outstanding care. Our country has the technology. We can heal humans, but we need you to heal America's ailing healthcare system, and make it great again.

For your resolve to achieve that goal, you have our wholehearted support. This brave move is healthy for doctors, healthy for patients, and healthy for America.

Sincerely,

Tom Coburn, MD
Former Senator
Tulsa, OK

G. Keith Smith, MD
Surgery Center of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, OK
Representing 112 physicians

Marni Jameson Carey
Association of Independent Doctors
Winter Park, FL
Representing 960 physicians

PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATIONS

Paula Muto, MD
UBERDOC
North Andover, MA
Representing 1,150 physicians

Jeffrey Hessing, MD
Independent Doctors of Idaho
Boise, ID
Representing 543 physicians

Guy Kezirian, MD
Refractive Surgery Alliance
Scottsdale, AZ
Representing 250 physicians

Michael Brady
Healthcare Business Consultants
Asheville, North Carolina
Representing 175 physicians

PHYSICIAN PRACTICES

Jonathan Kaplan, MD
Pacific Heights Plastic Surgery
San Francisco, CA
Representing 250 physicians

Harvey Serota, MD
St. Louis Heart & Vascular
Cardiology
St. Louis, MO
Representing 250 physicians

Scott Hardeman, MD
Sound Health Services
St. Louis, MO
Representing 28 physicians

Bryan Reuss, MD
Orlando Orthopaedic Center
Orlando, FL
Representing 24 physicians

Larry Sobal, MBA
Heart & Vascular Institute of WI
Appleton, WI
Representing 15 physicians

Tim Thorsen, DPT
Health in Motion
Rhineland, WI
Representing 14 physicians

Edwin DeJesus, MD
Orlando Immunology Center
Disease Consultants
Orlando, FL
Representing 13 physicians

Miriam Mackovic-Basic, MD
Complete Women Care
Long Beach, CA
Representing 10 physicians

Ralph Rodriguez, MD
Central Florida Cardiology
Group
Orlando, FL
Representing 10 physicians

St. George Surgical Center
St. George, UT
Representing 9 physicians

Surb Guram, MD
SC Internal Medicine Associates
Irmo, SC
Representing 8 physicians

Jerome Aya-ay, MD
Palmetto Proactive Healthcare
Greenville, SC
Representing 6 physicians

Melinda McBride, AuD
South Bay Hearing and Balance
Center
Torrance, CA
Representing 6 physicians

Kyle Rickner, MD
Primary Health Partners
Yukon, OK
Representing 6 physicians

Stephen Bravo, MD
Sand Lake Imaging
Orlando, FL
Representing 5 physicians

James Flood, DPM
First Step Foot Care
Wauconda, IL
Representing 5 physicians

Betsy Leveritt, DO
Florida Dermatology Associates
Oviedo/ Orlando, FL
Representing 5 physicians

Jonathan Bushman, DO
Reliant Health & Wellness,
PLLC
Enid, OK
Representing 4 physicians

Brad Lerner, MD
LernerCohen Healthcare
Sarasota, FL
Representing 4 physicians

Jose Mandry, MD
Endocrine Associates of Florida
Ocoee, FL
Representing 4 physicians

Pamela Snook, MD
Contemporary Women's Care
Winter Park, FL
Representing 4 physicians

Robert Clark, MD
Cary Skin Center
Cary, NC
Representing 3 physicians

Andrew Kurban, DDS
Kazis, Kurban and Associates
Boston, MA
Representing 3 physicians

Steven Lester, MD
Cancer Care Center
Winter Park, FL
Representing 3 physicians

Evan Shapiro, MD
Women's Health and Wellness
New Hyde Park, NY
Representing 3 physicians

Tom Umbach, MD
Blossom Bariatrics
Las Vegas, NV
Representing 3 physicians

Scott Benjamin, MD
Benjamin Physical Medicine
Williston, VT
Representing 2 physicians

Ram Reddy, MD
Excel Hospitalist Partners
Orlando, FL
Representing 2 physicians

Scott Silverstein, DO
Innovative Health and Wellness
Pompano Beach, FL
Representing 2 physicians

INDIVIDUAL PHYSICIANS

Niran Al-Agba, MD
Silverdale Pediatrics, LLP
Silverdale, WA

Joseph Costello DPM
Costello Foot and Ankle Clinic
Kirksville, MO

Thomas Gross, MD
Midlands Orthopaedics
Columbia, SC

Devendra Amin, MD
Easton Hospital
Easton, PA

Daniel Rhead Cottam, MD
Bariatric Medicine Institute
Salt Lake City, UT

Eliot Hoffman, MD
Cardiology Consultant of
Southwest Florida & the Vein
Center
Fort Myers, FL

Thomas Bakondy, MD
Partners Imaging Centers
Sarasota, FL

John Crofts, MD
Univ. of Rochester Medical Ctr
Rochester, NY

Leah Houston, MD
Humanitarian Physicians
Empowerment Community
New York, NY

Ali Balanon, MD
Mather, CA

Stephen Dallas, MD
Opus Internal Medicine
Kalamazoo, MI

D. Lee Howell, Jr., MD
Bayou City Surgical Specialists
Houston, TX

Luis Bendezu, MD
Tryon Medical Partners
Charlotte, NC

Michael Dellavecchia, MD
Main Line Health Bryn Mawr
Hospital
Bryn Mawr, PA

Terah Isaacson, MD
Memorial Hermann Hospital
Houston, TX

Keith Berger, MD
Center for Health & Cancer
Prevention
Virginia Beach, VA

Cristin Dickerson, MD
Green Imaging, PLLC
Houston, TX

Lyn Johnson, DO
Family Health Center-East
Orlando, FL

Diana Blum, MD
Peninsula Private Neurology
Menlo Park, CA

Brian Dixon, MD
Progressive Psychiatry
Fort Worth, Texas

Nicole Johnson, MD
UH Rainbow Babies and
Children's Hospital
Cleveland, OH

James H. Boyd, MD
Mercy Hospital
Creve Coeur, MO

Andrew Ellner, MD
Boston, MA

Jack Brown, MD
Oregon Coast Dermatology
Coos Bay, OR

Cheryl Ferguson, MD
St. Vincent Medical Group
Fishers, IN

Vinay Julapalli, MD
Memorial Hermann
Houston, TX

Samuel Burchfield, MD
Burchfield Family Medicine
Paragould, AR

Kenneth Fisher, MD
Kalamazoo, MI

Paul Kempen, MD
Weirton Medical Center
Weirton, WV

Joel Chodos, MD
Digestive Health Center
Wilmington, DE

Westby Fisher, MD
University of Chicago Medical
Center
Chicago, IL

Andrew Krupitsky, DO
Altamonte Family Practice
Altamonte Springs, FL

Michael Ciampi, MD
Ciampi Family Practice
South Portland, ME

Caren Gallaher, MD
Physicians for Patients
Knoxville, TN

Anil Kumar, MD
Central Florida Cardiology
Group
Orlando, FL

Arvind Cavale, MD
Diabetes and Endocrinology
Consultants of Pennsylvania
Feasterville, PA

Elaina George, MD
Peachtree ENT Center
Atlanta, GA

Stephane Lavoie, MD
Florida Orthopedic Associates
Deland, FL

Lisa Chipps, MD
Chipps Dermatology
Los Angeles, CA

Jeffrey Gold, MD
Gold Direct Care
Marblehead, MA

Peter Lazzopina, MD
Frontier Direct Primary Care
Harlingen, TX

Physicians Supporting Real Price Transparency in Healthcare

Edwin Leap, MD
Newberry County Memorial
Hospital Emergency Department
Tamassee, SC

Peter Lehmann, MD
Vintage Direct Primary Care
Poulsbo, WA

Teresa Leverett, MD
Freedom Family Practice
North Hampton, NH

Martin Lopatin, MD
Rheumatic Disease Associates
Willow Grove, PA

Join Luh, MD
St. Joseph Hospital
Eureka, CA

Marty Makary, MD
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, MD

Marion Mass, MD
Children's Hospital of
Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Carmela Mancini, DO
Gold Direct Care
Marblehead, MA

Marion McMillan, MD
Spinal Medicine and Endoscopic
Spinal Surgery
Seneca, SC

Richard Meister, MD
Pacific Laser Eye Center
Roseville, CA

Ziba Monfared, MD
St. Luke's Nazareth Family
Practice
Easton, PA

Ashish Nash, MD
Bayou City Surgical Specialists
Houston, TX

Robert Nelson, MD
Forum for Healthcare Freedom
Cumming, GA

Betsy Nolan, MD
Oklahoma Shoulder Center
Oklahoma City, OK

Albert Ong, MD
Orlando Urology Associates
Orlando, FL

Heidi Overton, MD
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

Christopher Paskowski, MD
Oklahoma Otolaryngology
Assoc.
Norman, OK

Danae Powers, MD
Pennsylvania Medical Society
State College, PA

Elizabeth Prater, MD
Healthy Skin Dermatology of
Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, OK

Tracy Ragland, MD
OneFamilyMD PLLC
Shrewsbury, MD

Rodney Randall, MD
Advanced Cardiovascular
Center
Tampa, FL

John Gardiner Roddey, MD
Charlotte Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
Charlotte, NC

Patricia Roddey, MD
Tryon Medical Partners
Charlotte, NC

Scott Roethle, MD
ModRN Health
Overland Park, KS

Molly Rutherford, MD
Bluegrass Family Wellness
Crestwood, KY

Joseph Schembri, MD
Business Behavioral Health
Network
Norwood, MA

Joel Schumacher, MD
Schumacher Family Medicine
Plymouth, IN

Rumana Suddiqui, MD
Signature Medical Group
Arlington Heights, IL

Marlene Wust-Smith, MD
Cole Memorial Hospital
Coudersport, PA

Bobbie Sperry, MD
Hampton Family Practice
Hampton, VA

Thanh Ho Taylor DO
Foundation Primary Care, PA
Katy, TX

Edward Tillett, MD
KentuckyOne Health
Louisville, KY

Pamela Trout, MD
Doc PAM, PA
Winter Park, FL

Richard Tyer, MD
Neurology Associates of Tyler
Tyler, TX

Craig Wax, DO
Family Medicine & Wellness
Mullica Hill, NJ

Jonathan Yoon, MD
Sound Health Services
St. Louis, MO