



AMERICAN BENEFITS
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Council commends approval of Energy and Commerce health care bill
**No Surprises Act takes proper approach
to ‘surprise’ medical billing problem**

WASHINGTON, DC – American Benefits Council Senior Vice President, Health Policy, Ilyse Schuman, offered the following reaction to today’s approval of the No Surprises Act (H.R. 3036) by the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee:

“The American Benefits Council applauds the subcommittee for approving legislation that protects patients from “surprise” medical bills without undermining access to high-quality, high-value networks or increasing health care costs for individuals and employer providers of health coverage.

“The No Surprises Act addresses the underlying root of this problem – a market failure that limits the benefit of networks in controlling costs for patients and plans – by establishing a local, market-based benchmark payment rate to resolve balance billing disputes. By contrast, the Council strongly opposes the use of arbitration (or “independent dispute resolution”) in surprise balance billing situations.

“We commend Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Greg Walden (R-OR), along with Subcommittee Chair Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Ranking Member Michael Burgess (R-TX), for approaching this problem the right way. We also urge Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) to move forward with their similar approach as included in the Lower Health Care Costs Act, which was overwhelmingly approved by the HELP Committee on June 26.”

The Council sent [a letter to Pallone, Walden, Eshoo and Burgess](#) expressing support for the bill on July 10. For more information on health policy, or to arrange an interview with Schuman, contact Jason Hammersla, Council vice president, communications, at jhammersla@abcstaff.org or by phone at 202-289-6700 (office) or (202) 422-4652 (cell).

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