

# LET'S MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE BY LOWERING PRICES

Excessive and rising prices for health care services are putting a large burden on American patients, consumers, employers, and taxpayers. From depressed wages to higher premiums and out-of-pocket expenses, exorbitant pricing has profound effects on not only the economy but the economic security of many American households. Higher prices and exposure to out-of-pocket costs reduce access, leading many families to defer needed care.

**The Alliance for Fair Health Pricing is a non-partisan coalition representing patients, consumers, businesses, and physicians who are working together to make high-quality health care more affordable for consumers and employers.**

## OUR MISSION

Our aim is to create a more accessible, affordable, equitable, and sustainable health care system for all Americans. We do this by shining a light on the primary drivers of high health care costs and laying out paths toward commonsense solutions to lower prices.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### **1. Making health care more affordable for consumers, employers, and taxpayers is an economic and societal imperative.**

To do this, we must address the central driver of high health care costs for the privately insured—the high prices being charged for care—by increasing choices for consumers and purchasers, and limiting anticompetitive behavior to lower prices.

### **2. Market failures must be directly addressed.**

There is insufficient competition on price and quality in many health care markets where provider markets are highly consolidated. Dominant providers and health systems have the ability to demand high prices, and there is an imbalance in the information available to consumers. It is essential that action is taken where markets have failed to restore and increase competition and to lower prices.

### **3. We need more complete and transparent information on pricing.**

In order for families, businesses, and policymakers to understand and fix the problem of high health care prices with commonsense solutions that work, we need more complete and transparent information on price, quality, and other aspects of our health care system.

### **4. We must address high health care prices in a way that directs resources where they are most needed across the health care system.**

A comprehensive solution to address high health care costs must ultimately create a more accessible, equitable, and sustainable system that provides high-quality affordable care.

## OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO...

- Utilize the diverse collaborative efforts among members to raise awareness about exactly why health care prices are so high.
- Promote action to protect consumers and employers from predatory health care pricing.
- Advance policies that prevent providers and hospitals from engaging in business tactics that stifle competition that lead to higher prices.

## OUR POLICY AGENDA

In order to make health care more affordable we must address the central driver of high health care costs for the privately insured—the high prices being charged for care. High and rising prices are primarily driven by consolidation, giving large, powerful hospitals and health systems leverage to demand high prices. There are several policies Congress and the Administration can pursue to limit consolidation and its effect on pricing.

**We support a range of policy approaches aimed at lowering health care prices and improving health care competition, including:**



Advancing site neutral payment and billing transparency reforms



Addressing anticompetitive contracting practices and enhancing antitrust oversight



Increasing price transparency

## OUR PARTNERS

Our coalition currently includes participating members from the following organizations:

- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Benefits Council
- Arnold Ventures
- Families USA
- The ERISA Industry Committee
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Purchaser Business Group on Health
- Small Business Majority

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