

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas  
United States House of Representatives  
2438 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus  
United States House of Representatives  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Kurt Schrader  
United States House of Representatives  
2431 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
United States House of Representatives  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Terri Sewell  
United States House of Representatives  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup  
United States House of Representatives  
2419 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Re: OPPOSE H.R. 5741: STRENGTHENING INNOVATION IN MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ACT

Dear Co-Sponsors:

The undersigned organizations represent health care consumer and patient organizations collectively working to expand access to and improve the affordability of health care. **We write to oppose H.R. 5741. This bill is being promoted under the guise of “erecting patient safeguards,” when in reality, it only safeguards health care stakeholders that benefit most from fee-for-service medicine that rewards volume of services regardless of whether those services are appropriate or beneficial to patients.**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) is an important complement to the coverage gains under the Affordable Care Act. While we have regularly offered our recommendations for how CMMI can better engage consumers and address the needs of vulnerable populations, we are overall supportive of CMMI’s current authority and charge to find effective ways to replace the fee-for-service payment system with one that rewards health care providers for delivering patient-centered and coordinated care at lower costs. In our view, H.R. 5741 would introduce unnecessary constraints on CMMI’s authority; hinder its ability to drive adoption of value-based payment models in both public and private programs; and slow the rate of innovative care delivery models that address equity by focusing on reducing persistent racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic disparities.

Expanding access to a broken system is inadequate. For this reason, our country urgently needs solutions that incentivize the health care industry to reduce costs while providing high-quality care. We need more – not less – innovation that puts patients at the center of health care delivery.

Signed,

