

# [Coalition for Affordable Health Coverage]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Industry-Consumer Alliance Promotes Health Care Price And Quality Transparency In “Doc Fix” Bill**

*Consumers, insurers, employers call for more comparison-shopping*

A diverse coalition of 22 stakeholders, who often find themselves on opposing sides in health policy debates, today released a letter urging members of the House and Senate tax-writing committees to expand access to federal price and quality data when the annual “doc fix” legislation, setting physician reimbursement rates under Medicare, comes up later this year. The letter is part of a multi-year effort by the Council for Affordable Health Coverage (CAHC) and the National Coalition for Health Care to foster bipartisan legislation boosting competition in private health markets.

**“We believe that the first step in making markets work for consumers is to put better price and quality information into the hands of those who are paying the bills,”** the letter says. Among the 22 signatories are National Association of Manufacturers, Boeing, AARP, U.S. PIRG and Blue Shield of California.

The letter calls on Congress to expand the availability and allowed uses of Medicare claims and quality data; promote data sharing by health plans and providers; and strengthen consumers’ rights to comparison shop. Legislation reported unanimously in August by the House Energy and Commerce Committee would expand the availability of Medicare claims data, enabling health plans to identify high value providers. A bipartisan group of Senators is contemplating similar changes.

**“Comparison shopping is part of our national culture,” said CAHC President Joel White and NCHC CEO John Rother in a joint statement. “Whatever our policy differences, Republicans and Democrats can agree on this one simple proposition: Americans have a right to know what they are buying. It is time we applied this principle to health care.”**

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The [Council for Affordable Health Coverage](#) is a broad-based association of organizations representing consumers, physicians, small businesses, large employers, manufacturers and retailers, franchises, insurers, brokers and agents dedicated to the principle that health coverage should be affordable for all Americans.

The [National Coalition on Health Care](#), the oldest and most diverse group working to achieve comprehensive health system reform, is a 501(c)(3) organization representing more than 80 participating organizations, including medical societies, businesses, unions, health care providers, faith-based associations, pension and health funds, insurers and groups representing consumers, patients women , minorities and persons with disabilities. Member organizations collectively represent – as employees, members, or congregants – over 100 million Americans

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