

Updates

Here are a few key policy updates the National Alliance has been tracking and engaging on in Washington. From advancing employer access to healthcare price transparency to ongoing efforts around surprise billing and 340B reform, these initiatives aim to strengthen employers' ability to deliver high-quality, affordable benefits for their employees and families.



Patients Deserve Price Tags Act

The National Alliance-supported Patients Deserve Price Tags Act, introduced by Sens. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) would provide self-funded employers with critical access to price transparency, allowing employers to design better benefits and steer employees to higher-value care. The National Alliance recently participated in a Senate Hill Briefing on the importance of this legislation for employers and working families. The legislation includes the following key components:

- Empowers self-funded employers to fully perform their fiduciary duties. The legislation clarifies that denying access to claims data and encounter information cannot be included in TPA contract “gag clauses.” This means that employers will have full access to all claims and encounter information, pricing terms for value-based payment arrangements, and the ability to select an auditor for claims payments, among other things.
- Requires TPAs and sub-contractors to provide quarterly:
 1. Third-party contract terms to calculate pricing, fees, etc.
 2. Rebates, discounts, proceeds from data sales, and other payments related to the group health plan that the TPA, service providers, or subcontracts expect to receive; and
 3. All data related to alternative payment arrangements with providers.

If your organization is interested in signing on to a group employer letter in support of the legislation, please fill out the link [here](#). The deadline to sign-on is October 10. If you have trouble signing up, please let Margaret know at mfaso@nationalalliancehealth.org.

Additional Advocacy Updates

The National Alliance continues to work with Congress and the Administration to advance healthcare reforms that will enable employers to provide high-quality, high-value benefits to their employees and their families. Most recently, we participated in several meetings focused on surprise medical billing, federal 340B reform, and price transparency.



Surprise Billing

Despite the success of the No Surprises Act in eliminating surprise bills for employees and their families, recent research from Georgetown found that the independent dispute resolution (IDR) process is increasingly being manipulated by private equity-based providers resulting in \$5 billion in healthcare costs for employers. These costs are largely driven by the high volume of disputes. The National Alliance is working with a coalition of employers and carriers to raise awareness in DC on the negative impact this well-intentioned law is having on the healthcare system. We are advocating for:

- o Transparency and oversight over the IDR process by enhancing access within the IDR portal and establishing performance metrics and audits tied to correction action;
- o Process to address the persistent issue with claims eligibility; and
- o Monitoring and correcting provider misuse of the arbitration process.

340B Reform

The Senate HELP Committee continues to work on federal 340B reform and will hold a hearing on October 23. The National Alliance plans to submit written comments to the committee ahead of the hearing.

Looking Ahead

Stay tuned for additional updates and opportunities to stay involved.