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Multi-Stakeholder Coalition Applauds Congress for Helping Chronically Ill


The Smarter Health Care Coalition, representing patient groups, life science companies, employers, providers, health plans, and public-sector purchasers strongly support this important legislation to ensure that individuals with chronic illnesses have access to needed care. We applaud the efforts of Senators Thune and Carper and Representatives Black and Blumenauer authoring this critical legislation to help Americans get more health out of every health care dollar we spend, and we urge Congress to swiftly pass it.

Approximately half of all Americans have at least one chronic condition and about a quarter suffer from two or more. Each year millions of Americans struggle to receive the appropriate care due to high out-of-pocket costs. Studies show that chronic conditions account for $.86 of every dollar spent on health care and, without appropriate management, lead to adverse effects on health outcomes and quality of life. Plans coupling high-deductible health plans (HDHPs) with Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) are currently prohibited from offering services and medications to manage chronic conditions on a pre-deductible basis, creating cost barriers to care for chronically ill patients.

The Chronic Disease Management Act of 2018 addresses this problem by allowing HSA-HDHPs to provide plan members access to health care services and medications that manage chronic conditions on a pre-deductible basis. Doing so will yield an enormous benefit to patients, employers, and payers alike, including improved health, enhanced workplace productivity, and the avoidance of unnecessary emergency care visits and hospitalizations. This common-sense reform will benefit patients and will ensure a more rational and sustainable health care system.

The Coalition strongly encourages swift passage of this critical legislation that will help patients with chronic illnesses access high-value health care services and medications that ensure optimal health and well-being.

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The Smarter Health Care Coalition represents a broad-based and diverse group of health care innovators, including health plans, life science companies, employer groups, provider-related organizations, trade associations, academia centers and professors, foundations, and consumer groups. Our goal is to leverage our combined perspectives and experiences to achieve smarter health care that improves the patient experience, particularly through integrating benefit design innovations and consumer/patient engagement within broader delivery system reform in order to better align coverage, quality, and value-based payment goals.