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Matthew Eyles
President & Chief Executive Officer

May 16, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-20
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, and Leader McConnell:

The American health care system has been tested in extraordinary ways in recent years. It has proven resilient and durable thanks to unprecedented collaboration between the private sector and the government to support the health of the American people. Now, even as we seek to move past the period of crisis, we must recognize that significant work remains to make health care accessible and affordable for all Americans. In fact, now is the exact time to put patients and their families first, and speed changes to the system to boost access and affordability.

As the national association whose members provide health care coverage, services, and solutions to hundreds of millions of Americans every day, AHIP is committed to ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, comprehensive, high-quality, and equitable coverage and care. In segments where there is robust competition – for example, when there are several local hospitals, or generic alternatives for prescription drugs – private negotiations work to make health care more affordable, spur innovations such as value-based agreements and integrated care models, and provide patients and consumers with more choices for their care.

Yet Americans continue to see health care prices continue to escalate year after year. This challenge can be tied directly to health care markets where there is little to no competition, and it calls for a comprehensive effort to spur the robust competition that is essential to providing Americans with more choices, better quality, and lower costs.

Health insurance providers commend the leadership from both houses of Congress and the bipartisan momentum toward greater affordability and access. The No Surprises Act showed what was possible when we come together to shield patients and their families from unnecessary medical bills while not raising health care prices. We also noted that the Biden Administration has focused – rightly – on fostering a fair, open, and competitive marketplace. We strongly support efforts to promote greater competition across the American economy and in the health care sector specifically. We agree that greater competition means more consumer

choices and more patient control over their health care. In too many segments of our health care system, competition has been stymied by powerful health care providers and drug manufacturers gaming the rules to their advantage and inadequate laws and enforcement to protect competitive markets. This hurts all American families, and that is why we are writing to put forward meaningful solutions to promote greater competition, access, and affordability.

Today, we are laying out a [roadmap](#) designed to **improve competition** in 10 key areas of our health care system to increase affordability and access for every American. They are based on **four straightforward commitments to patients, consumers, and businesses**. With these solutions, we can improve not just competition, but also affordability and access for everyone. These commitments are:

- **Improving patient choice.** By expanding access to telehealth, home-based care, and biosimilar drugs – among others – we can give patients and consumers more control to get the care and prescription drugs they need, when they need it at a price they can afford.
- **Protecting patients, consumers, and businesses from overpaying for care.** That means stopping anticompetitive behavior by health systems who use monopoly power to impose unreasonable contract terms that raise costs for everyone. It means defending consumers against having to pay more for the same service depending on the site of care — whether that is a hospital-owned outpatient department or a free-standing emergency department. And it means taking real action to curb the effects of the dialysis duopoly that undermines affordability for kidney care patients.
- **Improving transparency.** While improving transparency of health care prices at the federal level has been a major focus, only the recent Executive Order related to nursing home care has applied to the activities of private equity entities of the health care marketplace, which have vastly different business models than other health care organizations. We also need more transparency into how private equity control of physician specialty groups can impact the quality and affordability of specialty care for patients, consumers, and businesses.
- **Stop the drug pricing games.** For too long, Big Pharma has gamed our health care system – and consumers pay the price. We must stop patent schemes that distort the marketplace to maintain monopoly profits, crack down on provider-acquired drugs to stop the rapidly escalating markups on such drugs, and address the ways in which drug companies abuse charitable structures and prescription drug coupons to protect monopolies rather than help patients.

Health insurance providers have developed [detailed policy prescriptions](#) for each of these areas to improve health care competition, and we are committed to working with federal and state officials as well as other health care leaders to take decisive action. We will advocate for the laws, regulations, and enforcement needed to move our system forward. Prioritizing these reforms and taking concrete action toward them will benefit everyone – patients will have more

May 16, 2022
Page 3

choices, employer coverage will be more affordable with better benefits, and treatment programs will be more accessible and affordable for patients.

We look forward to working together to champion these solutions which will improve affordability, access, and quality of care.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Eyles".

Matthew Eyles
President & Chief Executive Officer