



*Ensuring Patients' Access to Care*

December 16, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H - 232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing the Patient Access to Responsible Care Alliance (PARCA), we are writing today in support of the provider nondiscrimination provision included in the recently released *No Surprises Act* and urging you to include this important provision in any year end package addressing surprise billing. We appreciate the bipartisan leadership that included this critical provision, including House leaders Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairman Neal, Ranking Member Brady, Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Foxx, and Senate leaders Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray.

As member organizations of PARCA, we represent non-MD/DO Medicare recognized healthcare providers who provide high-quality, evidence-based care to millions of Americans, especially to those living in rural and underserved areas. As the provider of choice for many patients, we understand the importance of ensuring providers are recognized to practice to the full scope of their training, education, certification, and experience as a way to increase access and competition, lower costs and maintain quality and safety.

We believe that this provision is a necessary part of striking an important balance between patients, providers, and insurers. The critical language around provider nondiscrimination (Sec. 108) is an important part of ensuring that patients have access to care, no matter where they live, by requiring insurers to treat providers fairly. PARCA believes that the federal government must help ensure the appropriate implementation of provider nondiscrimination protections under section 2706(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-5(a)). By requiring the promulgation of this rule and prohibiting the exclusion of non-MD/DO providers from insurance networks based solely on the provider's licensure, this consumer-friendly provision promotes competition, consumer choice and access to high-quality healthcare. Our members can speak directly to how disparate treatment by insurers can adversely affect patient care.

PARCA has a firm commitment to putting patients first, to ensure that everyone can receive the care they need from the provider of their choice, and we strongly believe that provider nondiscrimination language is necessary to accomplish this goal and should be included in any

# PARCA

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package. If we can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact any of the organizations individually, or Matthew Thackston, Chair of PARCA at [mthackston@aanadc.com](mailto:mthackston@aanadc.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Audiology  
American Academy of PAs  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Chiropractic Association  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners