



July 18, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady:

The Direct Primary Care Coalition strongly supports H.R. 6317, The Primary Care Enhancement Act. Thank you for moving the bill through committee. We urge Congress to bring this important bipartisan bill to the House floor for a vote next week.

The Primary Care Enhancement Act will bring better access to affordable primary care to millions of Americans with Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). This care is delivered without copays, deductibles, or any fee for service billing by a direct primary care (DPC) physician of a patient's choice, who knows his or her name and understands his or her personal needs.

Under current IRS interpretation of the law, a DPC arrangement is somehow considered a health plan or insurance. Therefore, an individual with DPC is not eligible to contribute to an HSA. The bill clarifies that a DPC service arrangement shall not be treated as a health plan that would make an individual ineligible to contribute to an HSA. Under this bill, fees paid for any DPC arrangement up to \$150 per month, twice that, or \$300 for a family will be treated as medical expenses and not the payment of insurance or other coverage. The amounts are adjusted annually for inflation. The legislation is narrowly constructed to apply only to HSA account holders and includes primary care services offered by providers whose sole compensation for this care is a fixed periodic fee.

These were changes to the original bill, H.R. 365, designed to improve the score and limit this pretax benefit to affordable DPC practices. Some in the physician community would be left out of this definition— I trust you have heard from them. As drafted, however, it would allow almost every one of our innovative DPCs, numbering almost 1000 in 48 states, to offer a relationship with a great primary care doctor to millions of new patients who have HSAs paired with high deductible health plans.

This bill has been designed to apply to Primary Care practices, not specialty care. The nation's oldest and largest physician organization, the AMA, supports the bill, as do virtually all the innovative DPC practices who have literally risked everything they have to bring their patients great affordable care. Large and small employers, national business groups like the American Benefits Council, the Employers Council on Flexible Compensation, the HSA Council strongly support its passage.

This legislation was among the first reforms to HSAs to earn bipartisan support. It's time to move the bill to the Senate now and tell all Americans that they have the right to better Primary Care and a personal relationship with the physician of their choice.

Sincerely,



Garrison Bliss, MD
Chairman



Jay Keese
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Erik Paulsen
The Honorable Earl Blumenauer