



January 25, 2018

Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Graham:

On behalf of the Coalition for Patients' Rights (CPR), which represents more than 30 non-MD/DO (Medical Doctor / Doctor of Osteopathy) health care professional organizations across the country, we write in response to the request for information on Promoting Healthcare Choice and Competition Across the United States posted by HHS on December 26, 2017.

CPR is a collective voice for non-MD/DO health care professionals who provide safe, high-quality, cost-effective health care services to millions of patients each year. The principles of consumer choice and competition in the health care system are a core component of CPR's mission. CPR stands by the principle that patients want and should have access to a comprehensive choice of health care providers without undue restriction, thus we value this opportunity to respond to HHS's request for information.

With regard to state or federal laws, regulations, or policies (including Medicare, Medicaid, and other sources of payment) that reduce or restrict competition and choice in health care markets, there are a number of instances at the state and federal level where laws and regulations restrict the scope of practice of certain health care professionals to such a degree that they cannot practice to the full extent of their education, training, certification and licensure. These types of restrictions not only limit patients' ability to choose their health care providers, they reduce access to high-quality, cost-effective health care by qualified professionals and limit competition.

Additionally, we believe the federal government can also give consumers more health care choices and can lower costs of care by prohibiting private health insurers, Medicare and Medicaid from excluding qualified health care providers from coverage. This would include any providers who practice within the scope of their applicable state license or state law and who can provide a service that would otherwise be covered if offered by a different type of provider.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to working with HHS to improve choice and competition in the health care system.

Sincerely,

Coalition for Patients' Rights

www.patientsrightscoalition.com