

January 29, 2025

**The Honorable John Thune**

Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**The Honorable Chuck Schumer**

Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**The Honorable Mike Johnson**

Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries**

Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), congratulations on your leadership roles in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. With you, HLC is eager to craft, advance, enact and implement legislation to deliver important priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of patients and communities.

HLC is an association of CEOs and C-suite executives from all sectors of healthcare working to shape the future of the U.S. healthcare system. HLC is the exclusive forum for the nation's healthcare industry leaders to lead on major, sector-wide issues, generate innovative solutions to unleash private sector ingenuity, and advocate for policies to improve our nation's healthcare delivery system. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors/wholesalers, post-acute care providers, homecare providers, group purchasing organizations, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

The U.S. healthcare system is at a critical juncture, marked by immense opportunities to advance care delivery while facing significant challenges. Rising healthcare costs, disparities in access, and the need for innovative technologies demand bold and collaborative action. HLC remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting patient-centered care, harnessing transformational technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity, and fostering private sector investment and innovation. In collaboration with the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, we aim to achieve meaningful progress in these areas.

### **2025 Policy Priorities**

HLC's policy agenda focuses on the following objectives:

- **Incentivizing Value-Based, High-Quality Care:** The transition to value-based care has proven to be a catalyst for improving patient outcomes and enhancing efficiency across the healthcare system. HLC advocates for policies that align incentives across healthcare stakeholders for achieving both cost savings and improved health outcomes. Strengthening value-based care models requires targeted investments in data-sharing infrastructure, interoperable electronic health records, and streamlined regulatory processes to support care coordination and reduce administrative burdens.
- **Leveraging Transformative Technology:** The integration of advanced technologies such as AI and machine learning offers unprecedented opportunities to revolutionize healthcare delivery. HLC supports measures to expand the adoption of AI to improve diagnostics, personalize treatments, and optimize operational efficiencies. At the same time, the rapid digitalization of healthcare demands robust cybersecurity frameworks to protect sensitive

patient information. HLC advocates for federal support to bolster cybersecurity measures and address privacy vulnerabilities.

- **Strengthening Healthcare Access and Affordability:** Access to high-quality, affordable, and uninterrupted health coverage is a cornerstone of Americans' wellbeing and financial security, whether delivered through Medicare, Medicaid, Affordable Care Act marketplaces, or employer-sponsored coverage. HLC supports sustained funding for these programs, along with important efforts to simplify administrative processes that often create barriers to care.
- **Promoting Innovation:** HLC champions policies that drive advancements in medical research and development, fostering a dynamic and innovative healthcare landscape. Strengthening incentives for breakthrough therapies, while prioritizing affordability and accessibility, is essential to addressing unmet medical needs and achieving transformative improvements in patient outcomes.

### **Immediate Legislative Opportunities**

The first quarter of 2025 presents key opportunities to address pressing priorities. The expansion of telehealth and hospital at home services during the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the transformative potential of virtual and innovative care in improving access, convenience, and health outcomes. The decision by Congress to extend these waivers that allowed these services through March 2025 was a pivotal step, but additional action is needed to further extend or make permanent these flexibilities. As the current continuing resolution (CR) approaches its expiration on March 14, HLC urges Congress to:

- **Extend or make permanent Medicare telehealth flexibilities:** HLC urges Congress to extend the Medicare flexibilities that enable seniors to receive care from any location in the U.S. and allow employers to offer standalone telehealth services. HLC also urges Congress to reinstitute pre-deductible telehealth coverage for Health Savings Account-eligible (HSA-eligible) high-deductible health plans (HDHPs).
- **Extend the Acute Hospital Care at Home (AHCAH) waiver:** The AHCAH waiver program is critically important for patients and providers, validating that high-quality, acute-level care can be delivered effectively in patients' homes while simultaneously reducing the strain on hospital resources. Extending these flexibilities would reduce the financial burden on the healthcare system and mitigate some of the challenges associated with workforce shortages, while also allowing seniors to receive hospital-level care at home. HLC strongly urges Congress to extend the AHCAH waiver through 2029.

### **Additional Legislative Opportunities for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress**

As the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress sets its legislative priorities, HLC urges the following legislative actions to promote innovation and access to care:

- **Enact legislative fixes to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA):** The IRA currently discriminates between products based on the type of therapy being brought to market. Targeted fixes, such as enacting the [EPIC Act](#) and [ORPHAN Drug Act](#) are needed to preserve innovation and support therapies addressing rare diseases.
- **Preserve the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits:** Extending these tax credits is critical to maintain continuity of coverage and stability in premiums in the marketplace.
- **Reform Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scoring:** [Modernize CBO scoring](#) to consider longer-term cost savings from preventive health initiatives, which are critical to addressing chronic illnesses and lowering healthcare costs.

HLC urges Congress to seize this opportunity to address these priorities comprehensively.



## **Conclusion**

As Congress embarks on its legislative agenda for the 119<sup>th</sup> session, HLC is eager to serve as a trusted resource and partner. Together, we can ensure a stronger, more resilient, and patient-focused healthcare system for all Americans. We look forward to working with you to achieve these shared goals. If you have any questions or seek further information, please do not hesitate to contact Katie Mahoney at [kmahoney@hlc.org](mailto:kmahoney@hlc.org) or (202) 449-3442.

Sincerely,



Maria Ghazal  
President & CEO

CC: Members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

