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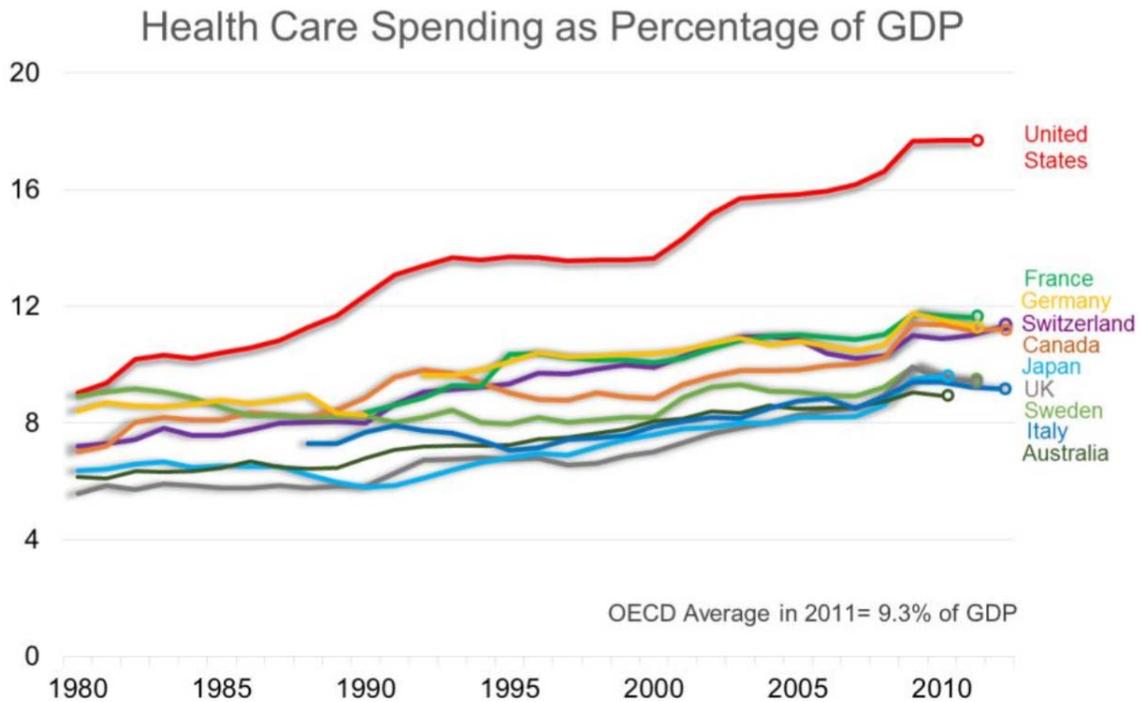
President-Elect Donald J. Trump
C/O Trump Tower
725 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Re: Petition to End Predatory Healthcare Pricing;
Signed by more than 104,000 individuals

Dear President-Elect Trump:

The enclosed five boxes contain a 3,263 page roster of over 104,000 individuals who have signed the attached Petition seeking an end to predatory healthcare pricing.

Our system provides worse care for 50% more than the next most expensive advanced nation - but the fix is simple.



Source: OECD Health Data 2013.
Produced by Veronique de Rugy, Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

The reason our system is so unreasonably expensive is that hospitals, labs and physicians are exempt from free market competition.

Ask the price of any healthcare service and you receive but one answer: "What insurance do you have?" Billing is determined by how much can be extracted from each patient on a case by case basis.

Hospitalization for chest pain can result in a bill from the same hospital for the same services ranging anywhere from \$3,000 to \$25,000 or more. A simple blood test for cholesterol can range from \$10 to \$400 or more at the same lab.

Price transparency initiatives are futile when prices may vary by a factor of 100 for the exact same service performed by the same provider.

To stop the bleeding, Congress need only require that healthcare providers publish "legitimate pricing" which means, **they can continue to set their own rates**, but - a different rate for each patient - must be prohibited.

Rates should be published in a uniform format such as industry standard CPT codes or a percentage of Medicare rates. This would empower everyone to search any medical procedure online and see pricing for all providers within X miles. It would be as easy and familiar as checking the price of any other goods or services.

Legitimate prices mean networks will be obsolete, along with the administrative burdens, tremendous costs, and limitations on patient choice which they impose.

Competitive free market health provider pricing is the only way to materially lower insurance premiums. Insurance premiums are a direct mathematical function of underlying provider charges.

The conventional wisdom that changing the way health insurance is marketed, policy coverage requirements or funding mechanisms can reverse rising healthcare costs, without addressing provider pricing, is mistaken.

President-Elect Trump, the truth is nobody knows what healthcare prices would look like in a free market. For example, a study by The Department of Health and Human Services compared Medicare-allowable prices for lab charges to the negotiated prices paid for 20 high-volume and high-expense lab tests by health insurers. While providers generally complain that Medicare rates are too stingy, the study found that prices paid by Medicare exceeded fair market value: "Medicare could have saved \$910 million, or 38 percent, on these lab tests if it had paid providers at the lowest established rate in each geographic area." (<https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-07-11-00010.pdf>.)

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Reform is difficult because the healthcare industry spends more on lobbying than the defense, aerospace and oil-and-gas industries combined. Unless legitimate pricing is mandated, we will continue to see rising prices and outrage over medical bills. We shouldn't have a system that makes Americans so powerless.

It is not a coincidence that the only product or service permitted to be sold in the U.S.A. without legitimate pricing, is the one which has imposed tremendous financial hardship, including causing the majority of personal bankruptcies and draining our Nation's prosperity.

More than 104,000 Petitioners request your support to require legitimate pricing by hospitals, labs and physicians. When Americans can shop competitive pricing for good value, our system will become the world's role model for efficient healthcare. Total U.S. healthcare costs as a percentage GDP will be slashed and health cost misery will end.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven I. Weissman, Esq.

Via FedEx, encls:

- (i). Petition to End Predatory Healthcare Pricing; and
- (ii) Five boxes containing 3,263 signatory pages with over 104,000 signers.