

The “Healthcare Truth and Transparency Act” Empowering Patients with Information

ISSUE

Significant discussions are underway among health care policy makers regarding the benefits of providing consumers of health care services with added information about their care. Advocates of transparency argue that accurate information empowers patients with an improved understanding of the health care delivery system. Currently, there is little “transparency” associated with the most fundamental and important component of health care delivery – the many health professionals who interface with patients each day. Patients lack information about the wide variety of individuals who work in health care settings, and they are confused by the increasing ambiguity of health care provider-related advertisements and marketing. Because of this lack of information and confusion, patient autonomy and decision-making have been compromised. Congress should act to enhance information to patients and address the lack of clarity in health care provider advertisements and marketing.

H.R. _____ would improve transparency in the identification of health care providers and in health care provider-related advertisements and marketing.

PROBLEM

- Recent studies confirm increasing patient confusion regarding the many types of health care providers - including physicians, technicians, nurses, physician assistants and other allied providers - engaged in providing services in health care settings. All of these providers play an important and distinct role in the health care delivery system.
- Ambiguous provider nomenclature and related advertisements and marketing are exacerbating patient uncertainty.
- Patient autonomy and decision-making are compromised by uncertainty and misunderstanding in the health care patient-provider relationship.

SOLUTION

H.R. _____ provides much needed resources and clarifications to address patient confusion in the health care marketplace. The legislation provides modest, yet meaningful, increases in resources to marketplace regulators, as well as enhanced transparency requirements regarding medical care.

CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

Please cosponsor and pass H.R. _____, legislation that would strengthen patient autonomy and decision-making with accurate information about health care providers and enhanced clarity in health care provider-related advertisements and marketing.

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