

J. Kevin A. McKechnie Executive Director The HSA Council kmckechn@aba.com

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi The Speaker United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy The Minority Leader United States House of Representatives The Honorable Mitch McConnell The Majority Leader United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer The Minority Leader United States Senate

BY HAND and VIA EMAIL

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader Schumer:

I write to convey our support for your December 20th discussions around improvements to the healthcare system. Specifically, we hope that an agreement can be reached to pass several bipartisan bills in the House and Senate; <u>H.R. 3708</u>, the Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2019; <u>H.R. 4742</u>, to impose a tax on nicotine used in vaping; <u>H.R. 4716</u>, The Inhaler Coverage and Access Now (I CAN) Act; and, <u>H.R. 1922</u>, The Restoring Access to Medication Act.

As you know, these bills are paid for, meaning they do not violate PAY GO rules, are bi-partisan and three of them passed the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously: the Primary Care Enhancement Act, the Restoring Access to Medication Act and the Access Now (I CAN) Act.

A disappointingly small number of healthcare bills are bipartisan; even fewer are voted unanimously out of Committee. Rewarding the efforts of those Members who labored to produce unanimous, bipartisan bills with passage would be a wonderful and encouraging sign that progress is possible in healthcare.

Finally, a great deal of effort has gone into ending surprise medical billing and repeal of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) "Cadillac Tax." In fact, the July vote repealing the tax in the House was overwhelming – 419 to 6. We strongly encourage you to include these measures with the HSA provisions mentioned above.

We appreciate the difficult work facing each of you and are ready to assist in these important matters. Thank you for considering our proposal.

Sincerely,

J. Kevin A. McKechnie Executive Director