

March 26, 2024

Congressman Glenn F. Ivey  
1529 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman David J. Trone  
2404 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Kweisi Mfume  
2263 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Andrew P. Harris  
1536 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Jamin B. (Jamie) Raskin  
2242 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger III  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman John P. Sarbanes  
2370 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Maryland Delegation:

On behalf of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, I am writing to urge you to sign onto the bipartisan letter penned by Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Robin Kelly, addressing the cyberattack on UnitedHealth Group's subsidiary, Change Healthcare/Optum, which occurred on February 21. This letter emphasizes the critical need for continued support from the Biden Administration and UnitedHealth Group to assist physician practices and patients in overcoming the challenges resulting from this cyberattack.

As you are aware, the cyberattack has posed significant difficulties for physicians nationwide, disrupting vital healthcare services and compromising patient care. In light of these challenges, it is imperative that Congress takes action to ensure that physician practices receive the necessary resources to mitigate the impact of this cyberattack and safeguard patient well-being. We express our gratitude for the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) support extended to providers participating in Medicare Parts A, B, and C of Traditional Medicare. We strongly urge HHS to extend this crucial support to include Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP). This is essential for maintaining uninterrupted continuity of care for low-income population and prevent any adverse impacts on patient services. We request that HHS leverages its authorities to guarantee the disbursement of funds for services be provided not only under traditional Medicare but also to providers participating in Medicare Advantage and Medicaid.

The recent cyber-attack has significantly affected our providers with smaller practices who are facing substantial financial difficulties, particularly those operating in rural and underserved regions due to their inherently narrow financial margins. Your immediate attention and assistance are critical in enabling these practices to remain operational, thus preserving their capacity to fulfill payroll obligations and continue providing healthcare services.

Additionally, feedback from providers indicates that the current assistance from UHG/Optum/Change has not been sufficient to offset the financial strain caused by postponed payments from commercial insurers, therefore, we also ask HHS to facilitate and support providers impacted by non-Medicare related payments issues as well.

The American Medical Association (AMA) fully supports this bipartisan effort and encourages all national medical societies, as well as state and county medical associations, to mobilize their members in advocating for the cosigning of this crucial letter. The attached list of current cosigners underscores the broad bipartisan support for this initiative, underscoring its significance in addressing the pressing concerns facing physicians and patients alike.

I urge you to join your colleagues in cosigning this letter, demonstrating your commitment to supporting healthcare providers and protecting patient care in the face of cyber threats. Your support will be instrumental in advancing this important cause and ensuring that physician practices have the necessary support to recover and thrive in the aftermath of this cyberattack.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to your support and leadership on this critical issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Gene M. Ransom, III  
CEO  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society