Health Legislation

Author Note

Lower Healthcare Costs Bill

# Response 1

“Lower Healthcare Costs Act” was proposed to the Senate of the United States in its 116th Congress meeting. The purpose of the bill was to end surprise medical bills and the costs of essential healthcare services.

# Response 2

## Cultivating transparency in the departments of healthcare

The removal of gag clauses can improve prices and quality of healthcare & its facilities. The incompetent entities in healthcare insurances that limit the delivery of quality care to patients should be banned to enhance the health status of communities. The bill is proposed to develop a system that discourages agents and brokers' plans in the healthcare system.

## Decreasing the charges of prescription medicines

The timely availability of generics to improve the costs and affordability of drugs among communities. The bill has proposed the protection of biological and genetic products at affordable costs for the communities (“S. 1895, Lower Health Care Costs Act | Congressional Budget Office,” n.d.). The bill was proposed to ensure the availability, transportation and accessibility of drugs and essential medicines in the communities.

## Improving community and public health

The bill was proposed to create awareness among communities regarding immunization and vaccination to decrease preventable diseases from communities. The provision of healthcare programs that specifically endorse a healthy lifestyle among communities to reduce obesity and obesity-related disease. The development of healthcare systems particularly health IT and electronic health record to have easy access to monitoring and evaluation of health information.

## Successful exchange of health knowledge and information

The proposed bill specifically addresses health claims, cost information and security practices. This is to ensure that the exchange of health knowledge and information should be informal and flexible among healthcare providers (“Opinion | Some of Trump’s Most Devious Lies Are About Health Care - The New York Times,” n.d.). More exchange of research and health knowledge can significantly improve the quality of health care services.

## Preserving surprise cost protections.

Inappropriate and unnecessary medical treatments and their costs should be discouraged in healthcare facilities. It is needed specifically for those patients who cannot afford essential healthcare services (“Beyond Surprise Billing,” n.d.). The provision of limited and necessary costs can improve the quality of care to be delivered to underdeveloped areas and low socioeconomic status.

# Response 3

The major healthcare issues included in the proposed bill or Act are related to the provision of quality care services that directly influence nursing practice. For example, the provision of competent staff and healthcare providers to deliver effective and proficient services to the patients. The awareness among communities can effectively reduce the burden of communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disorders, stroke, hypertension and diabetes that are directly linked with obesity (Obama, 2016). Ultimately, it will result in the reduction of overcrowding in the emergency departments and provision of quality care would be ensured. The availability and affordability of drugs to communities can significantly improve the health status of communities (“Why price controls harm health care,” n.d.). Nurses with the help of a proposed bill or act can essentially improve the delivery of quality care, patient's safety and security in the healthcare facilities (Haun et al., 2015). The system that would discourage brokers and agents system in healthcare insurance can make it easy for the access of quality care to the neediest persons among communities.

# Response 4

Why price controls harm health care. (n.d.). Retrieved November 19, 2019, from <https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2019/10/21/why-price-controls-harm-health-care/>

Beyond Surprise Billing: Lower Health Care Costs Act of 2019. (n.d.). Retrieved from The National Law Review website: <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/beyond-surprise-billing-lower-health-care-costs-act-2019>

Opinion | Some of Trump’s Most Devious Lies Are about Health Care - The New York Times. (n.d.). Retrieved November 19, 2019, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/12/opinion/trump-healthcare.html>

# Response 5

The proposed bill or act was published on 19November 2019 in the National Law Review. It was discussed by Nicholas Bagley in the New York Times on 12 November 2019. The bill or act was proposed with the intention to improve healthcare services and facilities. The bill or act was projected to improve nursing settings and their roles for the efficient delivery of safe medical practices that is required for effective nursing practices.

**References**

Beyond Surprise Billing: Lower Health Care Costs Act of 2019. (n.d.). Retrieved from The National Law Review website: https://www.natlawreview.com/article/beyond-surprise-billing-lower-health-care-costs-act-2019

Haun, J. N., Patel, N. R., French, D. D., Campbell, R. R., Bradham, D. D., & Lapcevic, W. A. (2015). Association between health literacy and medical care costs in an integrated healthcare system: a regional population-based study. *BMC Health Services Research*, *15*(1), 249.

Obama, B. (2016). The United States health care reform: progress to date and next steps. *Jama*, *316*(5), 525–532.

Opinion | Some of Trump’s Most Devious Lies Are About Health Care - The New York Times. (n.d.). Retrieved November 19, 2019, from https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/12/opinion/trump-healthcare.html

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