

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2022

Theodore DeWeese, CEO
Johns Hopkins Medicine
1800 Orleans St.
Baltimore, Maryland, 21287

Brian D. Pieninck, President & CEO
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
10455 Mill Run Circle
Owings Mills, Maryland, 21117

Dear Mr. DeWeese and Mr. Pieninck:

We write to express our concern regarding the status of the contract negotiations between Johns Hopkins Medicine (Hopkins) and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst) that threaten many of our constituents' access to high-quality, affordable health care in Maryland. We are aware that if an agreement is not reached by December 5, 2022, many Marylanders will need to find new providers or change to a new health insurance plan in order to continue accessing the care they need. Thus, we strongly urge Hopkins and CareFirst to work collaboratively to reach a contract resolution ahead of the December deadline.

As you know, this negotiation process is occurring during open enrollment season, a critical decision-making time for patients and families as they consider which health plans will work best for them and their loved ones in the coming year. While CareFirst members were advised that this will not immediately impact anyone's access to healthcare services offered through Hopkins, ongoing negotiation terms for the provider rates continue to increase uncertainty around coverage of primary care and specialty services, surgery centers, hospital in-network status, and the impact on the cost of care for patients. If CareFirst and Hopkins do not come to an agreement, nearly 40,000 providers employed by Hopkins will be out-of-network, including providers at the Johns Hopkins flagship hospital, Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, Howard County General Hospital in Columbia, Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, and Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington. We continue to hear from many of our constituents with concerns that a breakdown in negotiations between Hopkins and CareFirst would greatly impede their access to primary and specialty care moving forward.

We believe Hopkins and CareFirst are committed to reaching a resolution that best serves patients across our communities in Maryland and surrounding areas that also rely on this collaborative care system between Hopkins and CareFirst. We applaud the ongoing, good-faith negotiations and remain hopeful that both organizations will find a solution before the December deadline. This resolution is vital for the health of our constituents in Maryland, and patients that rely on specialty care across the Mid-Atlantic region.

We urge both Hopkins and CareFirst to work collaboratively and earnestly to reach a fair contract resolution ahead of the December 5, 2022 deadline that puts patients first, keeps avenues to top tier

care open to all that rely on them, and limits the impact on cost of care to patients.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Shayla Britton in the Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen at Shayla_Britton@vanhollen.senate.gov and Martha Cramer in the Office of Senator Ben Cardin at Martha_Cramer@cardin.senate.gov.

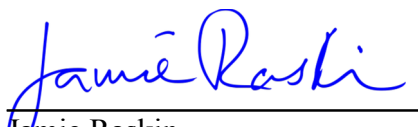
Sincerely,



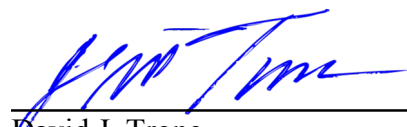
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



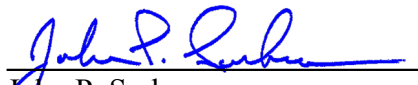
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



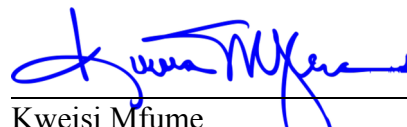
John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



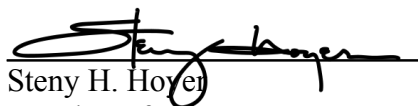
C. A. Dutch Ruppberger
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress