

Publications

Senate HELP Committee Releases Sweeping Legislative Package Targeting Health Care Costs

ATTORNEYS & PROFESSIONALS

Kathryn Bjornstad Amin

kamin@groom.com

202-861-2604

Jon Breyfogle

jbreyfogle@groom.com

202-861-6641

Lisa Campbell

lcampbell@groom.com

202-861-6612

Christine Keller

ckeller@groom.com

202-861-9371

Tamara Killion

tkillion@groom.com

202-861-6328

Mark C. Nielsen

mnielsen@groom.com

202-861-5429

Seth Perretta

sperretta@groom.com

202-861-6335

Malcolm Slee

mslee@groom.com

202-861-6337

Christy Tinnes

ctinnes@groom.com

202-861-6603

Ryan C. Temme

rtemme@groom.com

202-861-6659

Viv Hunter Turner

vturner@groom.com

On May 23, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee released a comprehensive health care package (the “Draft Bill”) that would target rising health care costs and billing practices. Entitled the “Lower Health Care Costs Act,” the Draft Bill—released on a bipartisan basis by Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Patty Murray (D-WA), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate HELP Committee, respectively—takes aim at so-called “surprise” balance medical bills, which have been the subject of various legislative proposals in recent years. The Draft Bill also proposes a number of measures addressing prescription drug costs, price transparency, and certain public health initiatives. The Senate HELP Committee accepted comments on the package until June 5, with the hopes of marking up the bill in late June, with potential Senate floor consideration some time over the summer. While passage of any large scale health care legislation in the current political environment seems unlikely, the current bipartisan support, along with the Administration’s support for both surprise balance billing solutions and price transparency, means that the proposal is a serious one.