



March 18, 2024

The Honorable Jodey Arrington
Chairman
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bendan Boyle
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member Boyle:

VillageMD would like to express our strong support for the passage of H.R. 766, the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act. This bipartisan legislation would require the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), upon the request of the Chairman and Ranking Member of both the budget committee and the primary committee of jurisdiction in either the House or Senate, to produce an estimate of the effects of preventive health legislation over a 30-year period.

VillageMD is an independent provider group that is primary care led with support from specialists and urgent care centers. VillageMD employs 4,000 providers at 800 locations across the country. These clinics are deeply embedded in the communities they serve: they provide care to those living within the community, hire care team members that are reflective of their community, and create healthcare jobs with upward mobility. Some clinics are co-located with Walgreens, allowing for primary care physicians and pharmacists to collaborate to create a more coordinated care approach and integrated patient experience. We provide care across rural, suburban, and urban areas with many clinics in medically underserved areas. We have deep experience in value-based care contracts, including with the Medicare Shared Savings Program, ACO REACH program, Medicare Advantage, commercial payers, and Medicaid.

According to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) 2020 publication, "*The Relation of the Chronic Disease Epidemic to the Health Care Crisis*," approximately 50% of the US population has a chronic disease leading to over 85 percent of health care costs attributable to chronic disease.¹ Often when preventive health legislation is being considered, it is delayed or halted all together due to an initial large 10-year score by CBO. By passing this legislation, lawmakers will be allowed to analyze the long-term savings of a common-sense preventive health measure.

This legislation is a critical step toward the value-based health care system our country needs. If more preventive health policies are enacted in primary care settings, the number of patients suffering from chronic conditions would be reduced drastically. VillageMD is in a unique position to serve those exact patients that make up the largest cost of health care.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7077778/>



We applaud your efforts in getting this important legislation passed through committee and join you in your support of its passage on the House floor.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Jacobs', written in a cursive style.

Gary Jacobs
Executive Director VillageMD
Center for Government Relations and Public Policy