MEMORANDUM:
ALLIANCE FOR FAIR HEALTH PRICING
Another Arnold Ventures Effort to Mandate More Regs on Hospitals

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Driving This Summary

The Alliance for Fair Health Pricing, coordinated by Arnold Ventures and involving at least six other organizations including three business groups, has sent a letter (click here) to House and Senate leadership urging Congress to pass new legislation asap that increases the regulatory burden on hospitals. They want Congress to further strengthen existing price transparency requirements – including the posting of negotiated rates in "dollars and cents without exception." They are now advertising in trade press a new poll they commissioned (click here) showing bipartisan support for "demanding action on hospital prices."

Overview and Origins

The Alliance for Fair Health Pricing (AFFHP) is a self-described nonpartisan coalition of patient, consumer, employer, purchaser and physician organizations seeking lower health care prices. It publicly launched on September 13, 2023—just over three years ago—with a report on hospital consolidation. Its approach combines research, public messaging, congressional advocacy and comments on federal regulations. Its principal emphasis is the pricing and market power of hospitals and large health systems, particularly for commercially insured patients. [1, 2]

Who Funds and Directs the Alliance?

Arnold Ventures is the clearest documented financial sponsor. The Washington Post reported in September 2023 that Arnold Ventures provided funding in the low six figures for management of the coalition, commissioned research papers and related work. That amount describes support at launch, NOT a confirmed 2026 annual budget. No comprehensive current donor list, financial statements or reliable total annual expenditure figure was identified in the public materials reviewed. Membership should not automatically be equated with financial contributions. [3]

Arnold Ventures also has an unusually visible policy and operational role. AFFHP's August 31, 2026 comment letter to CMS directs inquiries about its work to Alexandra Spratt, Vice President, Health Care, Arnold Ventures. The Alliance website links its privacy notice to the Arnold Ventures website. These are strong indications of close ongoing coordination, although they do not establish the legal ownership or full funding structure of AFFHP. [4, 5]

Participating Organizations

The eight founding partners were Arnold Ventures; American Academy of Family Physicians; American Benefits Council; Families USA; The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC); Leukemia & Lymphoma Society; Purchaser Business Group on Health; and Small Business Majority. A 2026 CMS submission displays seven participating organizations: Arnold Ventures, American Benefits Council, ERIC, Families USA, Purchaser Business Group on Health, Small Business Majority, and Blood Cancer United (formerly Leukemia & Lymphoma Society). AAFP does not appear among those 2026 signatories; this is not proof it formally left the coalition. [2, 4, 6]

Principal Policy Positions

1. **Site-neutral Medicare payments**. Supports paying equivalent rates for services regardless of hospital-owned versus physician-office location. The coalition backs CY 2027 proposed cuts for imaging at off-campus hospital outpatient departments, and urges extending site neutrality to additional procedures and on-campus evaluation-and-management visits. It also endorsed site-neutral drug-administration policy. [4, 7]

2. **Hospital pricing and billing transparency**. Supports mandatory disclosure of negotiated dollar prices, standardized machine-readable data, enforcement, separate outpatient-department identifiers, tighter provider-based attestations, and reduced facility-fee practices. [4, 8]

3. **Hospital consolidation and antitrust**. Argues that acquisitions of physician practices and concentration of hospital markets increase commercial prices without commensurate quality improvements; seeks stronger oversight, competition and scrutiny of contracting practices. [1, 4]

4. **Broader payment limits and affordability messaging.** Its October 2026 commissioned survey tested support for limiting hospital charges to no more than twice Medicare rates; the result reflects a poll question and advocacy framing, rather than proof that AFFHP has formally adopted a detailed universal rate-cap proposal. [9]

Recent Actions and Political Reach

AFFHP has submitted policy statements to House Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce, supported 2027 OPPS site-neutral imaging policy, commented to CMS on hospital price transparency and provider-based billing, and urged congressional leaders to codify stronger transparency rules. Its October 20, 2026 letter called for publishing negotiated prices in dollars and cents without exception. These activities show an active advocacy coalition, rather than simply an educational website. [4, 8, 10]

A new AFFHP-commissioned poll, conducted September 4–8, 2026 among 1,212 registered voters by Hart Research and North Star Opinion Research, found 89% considered congressional action on hospital prices important; 87% backed equal prices for equivalent outpatient services; 85% opposed specified facility fees; and 79% supported a hospital-charge ceiling of twice Medicare. These are reported opinion findings, not independent proof of the policies' budgetary or access effects. [9]

Assessment for Hospitals and Health Systems

AFFHP should be treated as a substantive advocacy opponent on site-neutral reimbursement and hospital pricing policy. Its coalition model joins employer, consumer, patient and philanthropic voices behind specific payment cuts and transparency requirements, and its recent direct engagement with CMS suggests meaningful access to federal policymaking. The group emphasizes price differentials, consolidation and patient costs; hospitals responding to its proposals will need credible evidence on outpatient departments' clinical mix, standby capacity, safety-net obligations, access to specialty services and effects on financially vulnerable facilities. Its positions are not synonymous with all employer or patient organizations, and some transparency goals can be shared even where payment policy is contested.

References (selected primary and contemporaneous sources)

[1] AFFHP, "Principles & Priorities," allianceforfairhealthpricing.org/principles-priorities/
[2] AFFHP, founding press release, Sept. 13, 2023, allianceforfairhealthpricing.org/press/
[3] Washington Post, The Health 202, Sept. 13, 2023 (Arnold Ventures funding report).
[4] AFFHP, CMS CY 2027 OPPS comment letter, Aug. 31, 2026, allianceforfairhealthpricing.org/publications/
[5] AFFHP home page/privacy notice, allianceforfairhealthpricing.org/
[6] AFFHP, Sept. 2023 statement on Lower Costs, More Transparency Act.
[7] AFFHP, site-neutral imaging statement, July 8, 2026.
[8] AFFHP letter to congressional leaders on price transparency, Oct. 20, 2026.
[9] AFFHP/Hart Research/North Star Opinion Research, hospital-pricing survey, Oct. 2026.
[10] AFFHP, publications and resources listing, allianceforfairhealthpricing.org/publications/