



# U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
1139 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2025

Gary A. Shapley, Jr.  
Acting Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20224

Dear Acting Commissioner Shapley:

We write today regarding Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Notice 2019-45, which provides patient-centered flexibilities to better manage chronic disease. While this notice was a significant step forward in expanding access to essential chronic disease management services, we urge you to build on this progress by updating and expanding the list of covered services and items.

Six in ten Americans live with at least one chronic disease, and nearly 90 percent of our nation's \$4.5 trillion in annual health care spending goes toward treating patients with chronic and mental health conditions.<sup>1</sup> Chronic diseases are among the ten leading causes of death in the United States. Americans continue to face rising health care costs due to the high prevalence of chronic disease, with out-of-pocket health care costs alone increasing by over 7 percent in 2024.<sup>2</sup> These cost increases pose an acute challenge for the more than half of American workers enrolled in a high-deductible health plan (HDHP).<sup>3</sup>

As you know, IRS Notice 2019-45 permits HDHPs to provide coverage for high-value chronic disease management services without requiring individuals to first meet a deductible. Thanks to this policy, authored during the first Trump Administration, patients living with chronic disease can now receive necessary health care services while managing their out-of-pocket costs. This means more affordable access to beta-blockers for patients with congestive heart failure, blood pressure monitors for patients with hypertension, glucometers for patients with diabetes, and more.

The Ways and Means Committee is leading the charge in Congress to end the chronic disease epidemic. In February 2025, the Committee held a hearing "Modernizing American Health Care: Creating Healthy Options and Better Incentives" and in September 2024, the Committee held a hearing on "Investing in a Healthier America: Chronic Disease Prevention and Treatment" where Committee members examined the importance of upstream interventions to address chronic

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/chronic-disease/about/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/document/national-health-expenditure-nhe-fact-sheet>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2024/51-percent-of-private-industry-workers-participated-in-high-deductible-health-plans-in-2023.htm>

disease and encourage healthier lifestyles. Additionally, in March 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill approved by the Ways and Means Committee, H.R. 919, the *Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act*, which would codify in law IRS Notice 2019-45 to further encourage employers to offer these high-value health care services and better care for their employees.

We ask that you use your authority to make updating Notice 2019-45 a top priority of the agency to expand the list of allowed chronic disease management services. An expansion of this policy would have a significant impact on millions of Americans and will mark a powerful step toward ending the chronic disease epidemic, a goal of the Trump Administration.<sup>4</sup> The IRS must act swiftly, and we look forward to receiving your response on the progress of improving this important policy.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith  
Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee



Vern Buchanan  
Chairman  
Ways and Means Health Subcommittee



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/remarks/2025/01/the-inaugural-address/>