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## H.R. 3534, USPSTF Transparency and Accountability Act

### REQUEST

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine urges representatives to **cosponsor** the ***USPSTF Transparency and Accountability Act*** (H.R. 3534) introduced in the House by Reps. Bobby Rush (D-IL), Phil Roe, MD (R-TN), Judy Chu (D-CA), and Neal Dunn, MD (R-FL). Senators are urged to join Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) in introducing companion legislation in the United States Senate.

### BILL SUMMARY

The ***USPSTF Transparency and Accountability Act*** would protect patients from Medicare or other payors denying payment solely based on a task force grade for a preventive service, and includes critical reforms that would ensure the USPSTF:

- Provides opportunity for public comment on research plans, evidence reports and recommendations;
- Utilizes review by external subject matter experts;
- Permits medical specialty physicians to serve on the Task Force;
- Establishes a stakeholders board; and
- Complies with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

### BACKGROUND

There has been concern regarding a number of USPSTF recommendations, including those related to mammography, skin cancer screening, and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening, and their effect on limiting access to high quality, patient-centered care for Americans. Many times, these recommendations contradict physician clinical guidelines based on medical literature, the American Cancer Society, and others with expertise in the reviewed clinical topic. Recommendations and consideration of the scientific evidence are important, but the reality of these recommendations is undermining new models of care delivery that are patient-centered, comprehensive, coordinated, accessible, and focused on quality.

The Alliance is concerned that the USPSTF has little accountability. Its members are appointed by the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), who is not confirmed by Congress. In addition, the Task Force is neither required to meet with relevant stakeholders during their review process, nor do medical specialists serve on the Task Force or have a formalized role to provide appropriate input. It is imperative that the USPSTF implement procedures that allow for meaningful input from appropriate medical experts during evidence-based recommendation development.

### CONTACT

**HOUSE:** To cosponsor H.R. 3534, please contact [Lauren.Citron@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lauren.Citron@mail.house.gov) (Rep. Rush) or [John.Witherspoon@mail.house.gov](mailto:John.Witherspoon@mail.house.gov) (Rep. Roe).

**SENATE:** Please contact [Dorothy\\_Hildabrand@blackburn.senate.gov](mailto:Dorothy_Hildabrand@blackburn.senate.gov) (Sen. Blackburn) with any questions related to introduction of the Senate companion bill.