PatientRightsAdvocate.org Presents Rep. Pallone with Price Transparency Champion Award

Lawmaker honored for fighting on behalf of American patients

Today, <u>PatientRightsAdvocate.org</u> (PRA) announced that U.S. Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) will receive PRA's new *Price Transparency Champion Award*, which recognizes elected leaders for extraordinary efforts to support hospital price transparency and protect their constituents from opaque billing practices. See the full release <u>here</u>.

"I congratulate Rep. Pallone and thank him for his outstanding leadership on behalf of America's patients and healthcare consumers," said PRA Founder and Chairman Cynthia Fisher. "At a time when most hospitals are still keeping patients in the dark and blindsiding them with overcharges and surprise bills, Rep. Pallone has taken serious action to bring this exploitation to an end. His sponsorship of the PATIENT Act and bipartisanship in pursuit of robust hospital price transparency enforcement can make systemwide healthcare price transparency a reality for American patients. PRA salutes his invaluable contributions toward a more equitable and affordable healthcare system and encourages other lawmakers to follow his lead."

"I'm grateful to PRA for this award and the hard work they do every day fighting for patients," said Rep. Pallone. "We have made some incredible progress over the last few years including nationwide protections against surprise medical billing, which would not have been possible without the tireless support of patient advocates. It's clear we still have more work to do to increase transparency and accountability, which is why I'm working hard to pass my bipartisan legislation, the PATIENT Act, to codify and strengthen national hospital price transparency protections. I'm confident that with partners like PRA at our side that we will continue to deliver real results that lower costs for patients and establish strong consumer protections."

The introduction of the Price Transparency Champion Award comes after last month's release of PRA's <u>fifth Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report</u>, which revealed that only 36% of U.S. hospitals reviewed are in full compliance with the federal <u>Hospital Price Transparency Rule</u>, including only 41% of hospitals (12 of 29) in New Jersey.

Each elected official honored with this award demonstrated exceptional leadership in enforcing and strengthening healthcare price transparency measures at the state or federal level, and in so doing displayed a steadfast commitment to putting patients first.

Other officials honored with PRA's inaugural Price Transparency Champion Award include:

- U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Fifth District of Washington
- Governor Jared Polis, Colorado

About PRA

PatientRightsAdvocate.org (PRA) is a leading national healthcare price transparency organization dedicated to ushering in systemwide transparency through advocacy, testimony, media, legal research, and grassroots campaigns. PRA believes that the availability and visibility of actual, upfront healthcare

prices will greatly lower costs for patients and employers through a functional, competitive healthcare marketplace.