

October 13, 2020

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health
Health Canada
0900C2
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9
hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca

Dear Minister Hajdu:

Re: Alberta physicians are concerned with the Alberta United Conservative Party policy document for a privately-funded and privately-managed health system

The United Conservative Party (UCP) in Alberta has put forward a “2020 UCP Annual General Meeting Policy and Governance Resolutions” document with which we have an issue. This document outlines policy for UCP members to vote upon at their annual general meeting on October 16-17, 2020. Policy 11, on page 14 of the attached document, states “The UCP believes that the Government of Alberta should support the option of a privately-funded and privately-managed health system”. We are concerned the provincial government is recommending Alberta risk federal funding by violating the Canada Health Act.

We find it disturbing the UCP is pushing healthcare costs onto our patients and risking federal funding of \$4.887 billion for 2020/21 and beyond. To receive these funds, the Alberta government must not violate the *Canada Health Act (CHA)*. Policy 11 violates the extra billing/user charges section of the CHA.

Policy 11 reads “Physicians should be allowed to accept/ take on more responsibility of supplying care to patients on a private fee for service that each feels will allow their practices to remain solvent and grow in scope (hybrid system).” The CHA clearly writes that extra billing and user charges must not be permitted by the province for insured services. If there are billings/charges, this amount will be deducted from the Health Transfer to Alberta. Essentially, the UCP are recommending that our patients pay out-of-pocket for their healthcare rather than the federal government paying for these services.

We respectfully request you provide a letter of the federal government’s position to respond to this proposed CHA violation. Physicians do not wish to risk \$4.887 billion in funding due to an ill-conceived UCP directive.

Our patients must not pay for healthcare when the federal government provides funding for these services.

Thank you for your consideration. Return correspondence to be directed c/o Dr. Ernst Schuster (ernst.schuster@albertahealthservices.ca).

Sincerely,



Dr. Ernst Schuster, President, Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association



Dr. Scott Beach, President, Calgary and Area Medical Staff Society



Dr. Johannes Fourie, North Zone Medical Staff Association



Fred Rinaldi

Dr. Fredrykka Rinaldi, South Zone Medical Staff Association

ZMSA Presidents/bjh

CC: Dr. Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister, Health Canada
Minister Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health, Alberta Health
Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister of Health, Alberta Health
Mike Gormley, Executive Director, Alberta Medical Association
Alayne Farries, Chair, Council of Zonal Leaders

Attachment: 2020 UCP Annual General Meeting Policy and Governance Resolutions