



# Ground Ambulance & Patient Billing Advisory Committee

Introduction to the Ground Ambulance & Patient Billing  
Advisory Committee



Shaheen Halim, Designated Federal Official

# Authorizing Legislation for the Committee

- No Surprises Act (part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021) – Section 117.
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) governs formation and operation.



# Scope of Topics for the Committee



- Review options for:
  - Improving the **disclosure of charges and fees** for ground ambulance services.
  - **Better informing consumers** of insurance options for ground ambulance services.
  - **Protecting consumers from balance billing.**

# Purpose

- The Advisory Committee must submit a **report** that includes **recommendations** to the Depts of Health & Human Services, Labor, and Treasury pertaining to:
  - Disclosure of charges and fees for ground ambulance services and insurance coverage.
  - Consumer protection and enforcement authorities of the three Departments, and State authorities.
  - The prevention of balance billing to consumers.
  - The report is due **180 days after the date of the 1st Committee meeting**.

# Welcome – GAPB Advisory Committee



- The GAPB Advisory Committee will not deviate from the topics that must be covered in the committee's report per the authorizing legislation.
- Charter for the Committee expires November 16, 2023.



# Introductions – 17 Members

- **Asbel Montes** – Committee Chairperson; Additional Representative determined necessary and appropriate by the Secretaries
- **Ali Khawar** – Secretary of Labor’s Designee
- **Carol Weiser** – Secretary of Treasury’s Designee
- **Rogelyn McLean** – Secretary of Health and Human Services’ Designee
- **Gamunu Wijetunge** – Department of Transportation – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- **Suzanne Prentiss** – State Insurance Regulators
- **Adam Beck** – Health Insurance Providers
- **Patricia Kelmar** – Consumer Advocacy Groups
- **Gary Wingrove** – Patient Advocacy Groups
- **Ayobami Ogunsola** – State and Local Governments
- **Ritu Sahni** – Physician – emergency, trauma, cardiac, or stroke
- **Peter Lawrence** – State Emergency Medical Services Officials
- **Shawn Baird** – EMT, Paramedics, and Other EMS
- **Edward Van Horne** – Various Segments of the Ground Ambulance Industry
- **Regina Godette-Crawford** – Various Segments of the Ground Ambulance Industry
- **Rhonda Holden** – Various Segments of the Ground Ambulance Industry
- **Loren Adler** – Additional Representative determined necessary and appropriate by the Secretaries