

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 7, 2024

Mr. Andrew Witty  
Chief Executive Officer  
UnitedHealth Group  
P.O. Box 1459  
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Dear Mr. Witty:

We write to urge UnitedHealth Group (UHG) and its subsidiaries, including Change Healthcare, to assume full and immediate responsibility for notifying all affected patients and providers, as well as federal and state regulators, about the impact of the ransomware attack on Change Healthcare.

As you are aware, patients and providers continue to deal with the aftermath of the ransomware attack on Change Healthcare in February 2024, which plunged many health care providers into a financial crisis and compromised personal information for “a substantial proportion of people in America.”<sup>1</sup> On May 1, you acknowledged during a House Committee hearing that the Change Health Care hack exposed the Protected Health Information and Personally Identifiable Information of “maybe a third” of Americans.<sup>2</sup> Yet, more than three months after UHG discovered the attack, millions of Americans are still in the dark about the vulnerability of their personal data and health information.<sup>3</sup>

UHG claims to have been undertaking a comprehensive analysis to identify and notify impacted individuals and has committed that the company will “make notifications and undertake related administrative requirements on behalf of any provider or customer.”<sup>4</sup> However, as of June 6 UHG continues to be in violation of the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which requires covered entities to notify individuals of a known or suspected data breach within 60 days of discovering the breach. UHG must also formally notify impacted business partners, including health care providers, in accordance with HIPAA and state law.

Without urgent action from UHG, patients and providers will continue to be left without any information about the scope of the data breach. To mitigate any confusion among the affected parties, we urge UHG to assume sole responsibility for all breach notifications by formally

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<sup>1</sup> UnitedHealth Group Updates on Change Healthcare Cyberattack, April 22, 2024. <https://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/newsroom/2024/2024-04-22-uhg-updates-on-change-healthcare-cyberattack.html>

<sup>2</sup> UnitedHealth CEO Testifies Before House Subcommittee on Cyber Attack Against Change Healthcare, May 1, 2024. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?535213-1/unitedhealth-ceo-testifies-house-subcommittee-cyber-attack-change-healthcare>

<sup>3</sup> UnitedHealth Group was made aware of the breach on February 21, 2024; <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/731766/000073176624000045/unh-20240221.htm>

<sup>4</sup> UnitedHealth Group Updates on Change Healthcare Cyberattack, April 22, 2024. <https://www.unitedhealthgroup.com/newsroom/2024/2024-04-22-uhg-updates-on-change-healthcare-cyberattack.html>

notifying OCR, state regulators, Congress, the media, and health care providers that it intends to complete all breach notifications on behalf of all HIPAA-covered entities.

We ask that you immediately commit to doing so and send us your plan to notify individuals and business partners, with those data breach notifications going out no later than June 21, 2024. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan".

Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marsha Blackburn".

Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator