



House Committee on Insurance

Proponent Written Only Testimony on House Bill 2825

Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Monday, March 18, 2024

Mister Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium, and large-sized businesses across the state advocating for policies to improve the economic climate in Kansas. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 2825, a bill relating to hospital price transparency.

The price of healthcare has become an issue of discussion among policymakers over recent years. According to the *Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services* the United States is spending \$4.5 trillion on healthcare cost averaging out to \$13,493 per an American. The majority of Kansans do receive their healthcare coverage through their employer as an employee benefit. President Trump acted while in office issuing "An American-First Healthcare Plan" executive order that included price transparency for hospitals. President Biden has also supported the hospital price transparency regulations issued by his predecessor.

The Kansas Chamber supports any interest in providing transparency to Kansans across any subject matter. Hospital price transparency will allow the patient to make the best-informed decision when it comes to their healthcare decisions. In other industries businesses can see what their competitors charge. With hospitals providing price transparency they can see what others are charging for certain procedures which could lead to reduced cost for patients.

In closing, we view this legislation as a step to provide more transparency with healthcare costs to Kansans providing them the information to make more informed healthcare decisions for themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2825, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.