



RICE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1
OF RICE COUNTY

Opponent Testimony for HB2246

February 10, 2025

To Chairman Sutton and members of the committee,

My name is Weston Tallman, and I serve as the Chief Financial Officer for Rice Community Health in Lyons, KS. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns with HB 2246.

Rice Community Health is supportive of price transparency. We are dedicated to ensuring our patients receive comprehensive cost information to make informed decisions about their health. We believe in going above and beyond to explain the complexity of healthcare pricing to the patient. Because of that, we encourage patients to not only check our website for pricing information but also reach out to our dedicated staff for meaningful conversations.

Healthcare operates under fundamentally different conditions than other sectors, with complex reimbursement models and varied patient needs. Price transparency accountability is crucial, but the focus should be on collaborative solutions rather than punitive regulations. Trust can be built through education and engagement rather than strict mandates that are duplicative of already established federal regulations.

I'd like to highlight some of the education and engagement that Rice Community Health has supplied to our patients. In 2024, Rice Community Health supplied approximately 5 good faith estimates per week to patients. While supplying that transparency data to our patients, we spent extra time to speak to the patient about financial education and healthcare financial literacy. Rice Community Health staff have spent additional hours learning about price transparency requirements, processes, and best practices. Kansas hospitals are proud to engage and provide needed price cost information to our fellow Kansans.

While the goal of price transparency is to empower patients, more regulations may lead to our hospital focusing more on compliance than on providing quality patient care. This could inadvertently harm patient services.

Rice Community Health thanks the committee for your consideration to oppose House Bill 2246.

Sincerely,

Weston Tallman
CFO
Rice Community Health