

TO: House Insurance Committee  
FROM: Joe Tallon, CFO, Salina Regional Health Center  
DATE: March 18, 2024  
RE: HB 2825 Opponent Testimony, Written Only

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Insurance Committee,

I am writing today in opposition to House Bill 2825.

I believe transparency is a good thing and ultimately can help bring down the cost of healthcare. However, I believe duplicative government regulation like the bill proposed increases healthcare costs. Our hospitals are already complying with the transparency measures put in place by CMS. If you go to the footer of our hospital webpages, you will quickly find a link to price transparency data. This was a costly measure put in place and we have worked hard to update and maintain the information.

Pricing out healthcare is not like pricing out a vehicle. Healthcare is individual. Every body is different and responds differently to medication and treatment. Estimating healthcare costs is very difficult to do considering the degree of variability per patient.

In addition, every insurance policy is different. HB 2825 does not address transparency for private insurance companies, a large source of frustration with patients. Providers do not have access to actual contract language because it is proprietary business information. And yet we keep trying to push the burden of explaining what is and is not covered, and what patients might owe in the end, onto providers. We believe this is a shared responsibility for all those involved, including private insurers.

The bill proposed adds an additional layer of government regulation for Kansas hospitals at a time when we have seen record inflation and historic workforce challenges. It is an unfunded mandate that opens up hospitals for additional financial losses and barriers to collect payments. It is for these reasons, I would urge the committee not to recommend HB 2825. It is a bill that will not benefit patients more than the measures already in place, and it is another costly regulation for rural hospitals like ours.