



**Testimony for House Bill 2598**

**House Insurance Committee**

**By J. Benjamin Quinton, CEO**

February 17, 2020

Dear Chairman Vickrey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Quinton. I am the Chief Executive Officer of William Newton Memorial Hospital in Winfield, Kansas. We are a major employer in our area, having over 350 employees.


William Newton Hospital supports House Bill 2598 because we believe the marketplace deserves greater transparency and accountability. As an employer, it is very frustrating to not see how our hard-earned money is being spent. This lack of transparency disables us from making important decisions about which healthcare services are best for our employees. We are able to see full disclosure of other healthcare costs, but pharmacy costs are never shared with us. We basically receive invoices with an amount due, but with no explanation as to what they were for. Even when requested from the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM), we are denied access to de-identified data.

In addition to this, it is very frustrating that there is no accountability. When calling to get information, we are transferred from one call center to another without any resolution. It gives us the feeling that the PBM does not work on our behalf but instead on behalf of their shareholders.

William Newton Hospital is not a tax supported hospital. In an increasingly difficult healthcare environment, we survive solely off of patient and insurance billings. Every penny we spend is carefully monitored. For these reasons and those cited previously, we are in full support of HB 2598. There should be much greater accountability and full transparency on the part of Pharmacy Benefit Managers.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter. It is time for important changes to be made.

Sincerely,

  
J. Benjamin Quinton, MHA  
Chief Executive Officer