



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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House Financial Committee
March 18, 2024
HB 2825

Kansas Association of Counties
Opponent Testimony

Chairman Sutton and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to testify on HB 2825, which would require that hospitals provide pricing information online, as well as creating monetary penalties for noncompliance, as well as deeming noncompliance an unfair and deceptive trading practice.

Some counties have county run hospitals that serve their communities by providing medical services to the residents in their region. These hospitals are supported by the fees for services, but also by taxpayer dollars that support the facility itself.

Transparency is important, and to the extent possible, information should be provided to patients. Often, however, the full extent of a medical situation is an evolving process, with more information being gathered as the process continues. Additionally, the out-of-pocket cost to the patient cannot be known without also including how much insurance will cover versus the patient's responsibility. This makes transparency more challenging than advertising prices for fixed services.

Monetary penalties against a county hospital would create stress on that hospital financially, which could result in the closure of that facility. Additionally, even if there was no financial stress, these fines would essentially be either taxpayer dollars, or would result in higher costs to their patients because of those fines. It is unlikely that this is a desired or intended outcome of this legislation.

County hospitals are often a key component in keeping their community strong as they provide jobs, health care and stability to the area. Losing such an institution can be devastating to the surrounding area. We ask that the committee consider these potential consequences as it considers this legislation.

KAC opposes monetary penalties that would burden taxpayers. Thank you for the opportunity to present this perspective on this legislation.

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