



March 18, 2024

Representative William Sutton, Chair
House Insurance Committee

Re: PHK Opposition to HB 2825

Chair Sutton and Members of the House Insurance Committee:

My name is Steve Kearney, President of Kearney Associates, Inc., and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Physical Hospitals of Kansas, Inc. (PHK). PHK is a not-for-profit trade organization created for the purpose of exchanging knowledge, promoting health education, and representing the interests of the healthcare consumer who may prefer to choose a surgical or physician-owned hospital for delivery of care in the State of Kansas.

PHK stands in opposition to HB 2825. We recognize that transparency is a vital component to quality healthcare and our member hospitals are already in the practice of many of the components of this bill. Our member hospitals are already tasked with compliance with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pricing and quality transparency requirements. In fact, the federal government recently increased the penalties for failure to comply with the transparency in health care laws. However, full transparency cannot be achieved if only the hospital is engaged in its practice. The Insurance industry must also be transparent to their consumers about what their policy actually covers before they elect to undergo treatment, procedures, or other forms of health care.

Additionally, health care is vastly different than other payment transactions. Some treatments cannot be anticipated when the patient admits themselves. While our hospitals work to ensure that there are no surprises, this bill would add another level of bureaucracy in instances when time is of the essence.

PHK asks that you oppose HB 2825. We are happy to come to the table to help address concerns and find a better way forward for all Kansans. This bill is not the answer.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am happy to answer questions.