



2025 HB 1594

Senate Human Services Committee

Senator Judy Lee, Chairman

March 18, 2025

Madam Chairman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Tim Blasl, President of the North Dakota Hospital Association. I am here to testify in opposition to Engrossed House Bill 1594. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.

North Dakota hospitals support having price transparency made available to the public. Knowing the cost of a service or procedure can help patients make decisions.

On January 1, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented price transparency requirements for hospitals. It requires a hospital operating within the United States to make public a list of the hospital's standard charges for items and services provided by the hospital. In addition to listing their standard charges hospitals are required to publicly list their negotiated rates with insurance companies.

I would like to point out the bill's price transparency requirements on lines 19-21 of page 1 and lines 1-4 of page 2. They currently mirror CMS's price transparency requirements.

CMS does perform hospital price transparency audits. Hospitals face monetary penalties for non-compliance. Besides fines, CMS can take other enforcement actions including warning notices and requests for corrective action plans.

Also, on February 25, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order enforcing the price transparency regulations currently in place today.

In summary, the price transparency language in this bill will duplicate what CMS implemented in 2021 for hospitals. Why is the state trying to regulate what the federal government has implemented? I ask that you give the bill a **Do Not Pass** recommendation.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Blasl, President
North Dakota Hospital Association