



2025 HB 1594

House Human Services Committee

Representative Matthew Ruby, Chairman

January 29, 2025

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

I would like this committee to understand that hospitals support having price/cost transparency available to the public. However, we feel this bill is unnecessary.

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.

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.

In summary, the cost transparency language in this bill would duplicate what CMS implemented in 2021 for hospitals. As I stated above, we feel this bill is unnecessary and 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