



State of Connecticut SENATE

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Sen. Kevin Kelly
Testimony
Public Health Committee
March 3, 2015

In Support of Senate Bill No. 687: AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE TO PATIENTS OF COSTS FOR ROUTINE HEALTH SERVICES

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB No. 687 AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICE TO PATIENTS OF COSTS FOR ROUTINE HEALTH SERVICES, a bill I was proud to propose alongside Senator Kennedy.

People have a right to know how much their healthcare costs. To properly support patient driven and patient centered healthcare people need to be equipped with information to help them make informed decisions about their care.

This legislation would require health care providers to post standard and customary prices for routine services. The goal of this legislation is to help patients better manage medical expenses, make informed choices when it comes to care, and give people the tools we all need to calculate the actual cost of care, including total copays, deductibles and any additional expenses.

Connecticut is far behind in providing meaningful price and quality transparency. Therefore, patients lack the ability to always make value based decisions. Connecticut has received failing marks for both price and quality transparency in national surveys. One of the first steps to improving quality transparency and making care more accessible and affordable is to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions.

Price transparency is a valuable tool for cost containment. A report by the West Health Policy Center found that providing patients, physicians, employers and policy makers with price information could save \$100 billion over 10 years nationwide.

The shifting healthcare landscape is increasingly difficult to navigate and the cost of care is increasingly burdensome to people across the state. By providing patients with information about costs for routine services, patients can be better informed, better prepared and better able to make choices concerning the care they need to stay healthy.