Promoting Hospital Accountability to Lower Prices for Working Families in Ohio

Nearly six million Ohio residents receive health coverage through an employer, making rising hospital prices not only a healthcare issue but also a workforce and economic issue.[1]

As prices climb, businesses have to make tough choices around wages, hiring, and affordable benefits — often forcing them to increase the amount workers pay toward their premiums and deductibles, leaving families with less in their paychecks and higher costs when they need care.

The impact on health is clear: 66% of Ohio adults surveyed reported delaying or skipping care in the past year due to cost.[2]

Marking Up Prices:

Ohio hospitals **charged employers nearly 3x** the amount Medicare paid for the same services in the most recent assessment.[3]

Reducing Competition:

OhioHealth was sued by the government for using its market power in the Columbus area — controlling over **one-third** of the inpatient care — to force 85% of the commercial health insurance market in the area to choose it over lower-cost options.[4]

Hiding True Costs:

Only 9% of Ohio hospitals reviewed were fully compliant with federal price transparency requirements.[5]

Pocketing Discounts:

Approximately half of Ohio hospitals receive **$564 million** a year through the 340B Drug Pricing Program — funds that represent the loss of negotiated savings for Ohio employers and working families.[6,7,8]

ACTIONS OHIO LAWMAKERS CAN TAKE TO LOWER COSTS

Ohio employers and working families deserve transparent hospital pricing, a competitive healthcare market, and clear accountability for public benefits. Employers are doing their best to manage spending through benefit design innovations and contracting networks — but they cannot overcome these market dynamics alone. Policymakers should:

- **Same Service, Same Price**
  Eliminate facility fees for routine services delivered outside the hospital and advance site-neutral payment reforms
- **Protect Competition**
  Strengthen oversight of hospital consolidation, and prohibit hospitals from using their market power to force anticompetitive contracts on employers
- **Accountability for Benefits**
  Establish guardrails and reporting requirements for hospitals that receive 340B discounts, tax exemptions, and other public benefits

1 https://www.ahip.org/resources/employer-provided-coverage-state-to-state
2 https://healthcarevaluehub.org/chess-state-survey/ohio/2026/ohio-survey-respondents-struggle-to-afford-high-health-care-costs-worry-about-affording-health-care-in-the-future-and-express-bipartisan-support-for-policy-solutions/
3 https://dashboard.sagetransparency.org/
4 https://www.gtlaw.com/en/insights/2026/6/doj-settles-lawsuit-alleging-hospital-contracts-with-insurers-unlawfully-excluded-healthcare-provider-competition
5 https://www.axios.com/local/columbus/2024/03/21/ohio-hospitals-patients-price-transparency-fail
6 https://340bopais.hrsa.gov/SearchCe
7 https://www.kff.org/state-health-policy-data/state-indicator/total-hospitals/
8 https://www.iqvia.com/-/media/iqvia/pdfs/us/white-paper/2026/cost-of-340b-in-2025.pdf

Employers for Hospital Accountability

Learn more at **www.HospitalAccountabilityNow.org**.