



Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide

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November 10, 2025

The Honorable Jim Burgin, Chair

North Carolina Health Care Senate Standing Committee

North Carolina General Assembly

16 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Re: Senate Bill 24 (Burgin) – Oppose

Dear Chairman Burgin and members of the North Carolina State Assembly Health Committee,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of, but we respectfully oppose Senate Bill 24, which seeks to curtail government insurance mandates and limits the benefits for North Carolina's public and private health plans. Rising medical costs are a genuine concern; however, Senate Bill 24 takes a misguided approach that threatens to reverse gains in coverage, protections, and access to care.

For the reasons listed below, we respectfully oppose this bill, and would like major changes to this bill before we are able to support it.

- **Risks Endangering Healthcare Access:** SB 24 restricts the introduction of new “health benefit mandates” to a clause to which existing mandates must be repealed before these are introduced, making it exceptionally difficult to require services that are recognized as medically necessary, including mental health treatments, and life-saving prescription drugs. 1 in 5 North Carolinians suffer from a mental disorder, and this bill would undermine their access to care.
- **Endangers Patient Protections:** Since this bill limits the state's ability to respond to emerging healthcare needs and update mandated benefits, SB 24 would erode safeguards that have been implemented pertaining to advances in medicinal technology. This would weaken the legislative process for enacting new health benefits, undermining North Carolina's status to address crises like the opioid crisis.
- **Hampers Innovation:** Because this bill limits the number of mandates the state can do, this would hamper North Carolina's ability to innovate, address health issues, or keep pace with rapidly-evolving science. Since this bill is very inflexible to these mandates, it traps North Carolina in a cycle where evolution cannot happen. This would lead to an overall net harm in both fiscal responsibility, and patient well-being in the long run.



For all of these reasons, SPAN respectfully urges the committee to go back to the drawing board on this bill, and figure out further ways for fiscal management in the healthcare sector. Fiscal management should be a major priority, however, when it comes to North Carolinians' healthcare access, this bill would put it further out of reach for many, undermine protections, and worsen inequity. SPAN urges the legislature to reject this bill and to pursue reforms that preserve access while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arnav Goyal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Arnav Goyal

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Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN)