



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 316 (Galey) - Support if Amended

Dear Chair Burgin and members of the Assembly Health Committee,

Students for Patient Advocacy Nationwide (SPAN) appreciates the intent of and strongly supports Senate Bill S316, which would help improve price transparency, ensure more honest hospital billing, and limit surprise costs for North Carolinians. By instating quarterly reporting, we see a marked rise in transparency, and ensure that residents can see reports on hospital prices, and facility fees. These will help ensure that residents know and are protected from hidden charges, and make sure that the healthcare system in North Carolina is more accessible and fair.

We strongly acknowledge and commend the efforts behind Senate Bill 316, which helps to make healthcare costs transparent for everyone. To build on this important mission, we write today to respectfully **request specific amendments** that would strengthen the bill's impact and success:

- **Lack of Data Reporting Accessibility:** This bill requires quarterly reports on hospital practices to patients, which is a monumental step towards a more transparent healthcare sector in the state. However, under the current text, there is no mandate that these disclosures be easily understandable, or posted online on a government web site.
- **Facility Fee Reporting Ambiguities:** This bill restricts many facility fees, a win for patients. Yet, these restrictions do not apply to all hospitals or clinics, some of which may still bill separate charges which may be unclear. Without this clarity, there may be loopholes that still persist for routine outpatient visits, or telehealth under the bill.

To address these concerns, we propose the following amendments:

- **Fix Reporting Ambiguities:** Expand the definition of “facility fee” to ensure that all locations owned and/or operated by hospital systems, including telehealth and outpatient clinics. This will ensure the closure of loopholes and major transparency, making it easier for patients to predict the true cost of their appointments.



- **Make Data Reporting Accessible:** Add a provision to let the Department of Health to publish quarterly hospital pricing in a free, online dashboard on a well-maintained government web site. This will help to further the mission of this bill by summarizing costs, and allowing residents, employers, and policymakers to use the data effectively.

By codifying these amendments, Senate Bill 316 would help to ensure a new path forward in terms of fairer healthcare billing and adopting price transparency in North Carolina. The adoption of this bill will help reduce risk for patients, and build an honest healthcare system.

For all of these reasons, SPAN respectfully urges the committee to consider these amendments before moving the bill forward, to make sure that we can help patients by making prices more accessible, and paving the way to make sure that we have a freer, and fairer hospital system.

Sincerely,

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