



Billionaires Pushing into the States with their Anti-Hospital Messages. Site Neutral, Consolidation Remain Top Targets

September 20, 2023

The Billionaires (Arnold Ventures, PatientRightsAdvocate.org, West Health) are using the results from the “research” they funded over the past year to promote their anti-hospital rhetoric on issues ranging from hospital consolidation, site neutralizing HOPD payments (Medicare and commercial), price transparency and the use of price estimates, the definition of charity care and tax-exempt status more broadly.

- Arnold Ventures has a dedicated site to promote “Same service, same price” – click [here](#). Click [here](#) for the “fact” sheet. Joining in the refrain is Families, USA – click [here](#).

States organizations are increasingly being supported by Arnold Ventures and PatientRightsAdvocate.org to push site neutral payments, eliminating facility fees and other anti-hospital measures. Click [here](#) for Arnold Venture’s take on their work in the states.

- Arnold Ventures is “sponsoring” time with regional television news programs and using their own staff for the interview with the local television talent. The interviews are focused on site-neutral payment policy. They are now calling the initiative: “same service, same price.”
 - In Salt Lake City, UT - click [here](#).
 - In Kearney, NE - click [here](#).
 - In Sacramento, CA - click [here](#).
 - In Baltimore, MD - click [here](#).
 - In Tulsa, OK – click [here](#).
- Arnold Ventures has formed a new group – the Alliance for Fair Pricing – which released a report entitled, “Health Care Consolidation: Background, Consequences, and Policy Levers.” It argues that hospital consolidation and lack of market competition increases health care prices.
 - Click [here](#) for the press release, [here](#) for the summary and [here](#) for the report.

- Alliance Members include the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Benefits Council, Arnold Ventures, Families USA, the ERISA Industry Committee, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Purchaser Business Group on Health and Small Business Majority.
- Click [here](#) for an opinion piece from the ERISA Industry Committee’s CEO entitled, “Hospitals Taking Hostages to Demand More of Your Paycheck” in the Dayton Daily News, September 13, 2023.
- Politico Ad:
 - A message from Arnold Ventures: When hospitals consolidate, prices go up, and everyone loses. As big hospitals are gaming the system, patients and taxpayers are paying the price. Site-neutral payment policies would put an end to hospital consolidation and protect Americans from more than \$140 billion in overpayments every year. It’s no wonder that 85% of voters from both sides support site-neutral policy solutions. Now, Congress has the opportunity to protect patients and save taxpayer dollars. It’s time to put patients before profits and enact site-neutral health care. [Learn more.](#)
- Arnold Ventures has a 2-pager on lowering commercial prices that includes “prohibiting anticompetitive contracting terms” – similar to language pending in the workforce bill before the Senate HELP Committee. Click [here](#) for the 2-pager and [here](#) for the workforce draft.
- Arnold Ventures is funding two projects from the Lown Institute for \$1.5 million. Click [here](#) for the Lown Institute press release.
 - To examine not-for-profit hospitals’ tax exemptions and how they relate to patient financial assistance and other community investment, and
 - To examine hospitals’ financial assistance, billing and collection processes complete with a national database documenting the policies, including the extent to which hospital will deny care, pursue legal action, and send patients to collection agencies.