

House GOP Pushes Health Transparency to Aid Affordability Drive

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Summary by Bloomberg AI

- House Republicans are proposing health legislation that would mandate transparency requirements on hospitals and insurers to address health facility consolidation and reduce healthcare costs.
- The legislative agenda includes bills that would require hospitals and insurers to post their prices publicly and in a standard format, and disclose ownership information, including for private equity firms.
- Democrats on the committee appear open to signing onto the transparency bills, but express concern about the impacts on healthcare of the Medicaid overhaul included in the Republicans' tax and spending law signed last year.

House Republicans are proposing a raft of health legislation that would mandate transparency requirements on hospitals and insurers as they look for a winning affordability message going into the 2026 midterms.

GOP members on the House Energy and Commerce Committee say the bills aim to address **health facility consolidation** and reduce healthcare costs. The legislative agenda also largely tracks with what President Donald Trump proposed in his **healthcare plan** that he released earlier this year.

“Healthcare affordability has long been a priority for this committee and congressional Republicans,” said Energy and Commerce health subcommittee chair Morgan Griffith (R-Va.) during a Wednesday legislative hearing. “Empowering Americans with better information and transparency data remains a critical step toward a more efficient, accountable, and affordable healthcare landscape.”

Republicans are seeking to tame rising **healthcare costs** with midterm elections approaching. House health panels have convened **multiple hearings** throughout the year aimed at tackling the issue and have grilled **hospital** and **insurance** executives on the subject. House Energy and Commerce Chair Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.) has also **vowed to take action** on a transparency bill in his committee.

A previous version of one of the bills discussed in the hearing—the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act (**H.R. 5378**)—passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2023. It would codify existing rules that require hospitals and insurers to post their prices publicly and in a standard format.

One draft bill presented at the hearing would require hospitals and physician practices to disclose ownership information, including for private equity firms.

Two other draft bills focused on Medicare Advantage: **one would** implement transparency requirements on prior authorization approval and denial rates, **and another**, sponsored by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), would limit compensation for agents and brokers who sell Medicare Advantage plans.

Democrats on the committee appeared open to signing onto the various transparency bills presented in the hearing, though they still expressed concern about the impacts on healthcare of the Medicaid overhaul that was included in the Republicans' tax and spending law signed last year.

"We need to pass legislation relating to transparency, but we need to sit down and work in a bipartisan way about how we can get affordable healthcare for all Americans," said health subcommittee ranking member Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.).

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