

Ways and Means Advances Hospital Price Transparency Legislation

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Victoria Knight - Bloomberg

The House Ways and Means Committee advanced legislation on Wednesday requiring hospitals and insurers to publicly post their prices, as congressional Republicans coalesce around [price transparency as their next](#) healthcare policy goal.

“The hospital knows the price. The insurance company knows the price,” said Ways and Means Chair [Jason Smith](#) (R-Mo.), who sponsored the transparency bill that was approved on partisan lines. “The only person who doesn’t is the patient getting stuck with an unexpectedly high bill.”

Health transparency legislation ([H.R. 5378](#)) already passed the House in 2023 with bipartisan support, but was never taken up by the Senate. It’s also a core tenet of [Trump’s health care plan](#), and both parties are searching for a winning affordability message ahead of the midterms.

The House Energy and Commerce health subcommittee [advanced their version](#) of transparency legislation in June ([H.R. 9393](#)) and the full committee is expected to mark up the bill soon.

Another notable bill ([H.R. 3514](#)), which had broad bipartisan support in a previous Congress and is gaining momentum this year, would establish an electronic prior authorization process in Medicare Advantage plans. The legislation was approved unanimously in the committee.

The Ways and Means Committee approved several other bills on a bipartisan basis that addressed Medicare payment rates for remote patient monitoring ([H.R. 3108](#)), anesthesia services in rural hospitals ([H.R. 9642](#)), and long-term care in hospitals ([H.R. 9468](#)).