92% OF AMERICANS ARE UNIFIED ON HEALTHCARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY! THE SAVINGS ARE AN ANTIDOTE TO INFLATION, AND INCREASED WAGES AND EARNINGS WILL REDUCE THE DEFICIT.

The Biden Administration can implement timely standards and robust enforcement of systemwide healthcare price transparency.

Using authority from the Affordable Care Act, the federal Hospital Price Transparency Rule took effect on Jan. 1, 2021, requiring all hospitals to post upfront prices, so consumers can compare and save.

The Transparency in Coverage Rule takes effect July 1, 2022, requiring health insurance companies to provide consumers with upfront prices systemwide.

- 92% of midterm voters believe healthcare price transparency should be legally required.
- 89% believe hospitals should be required to post all actual binding prices, not estimates.
- 79% want the Transparency in Coverage Rule to take effect immediately.

February 11-15, 2022, John Della Volpe, SocialSphere, 3,491 registered voters

Systemwide healthcare price transparency will be an antidote to inflation by enabling consumers – patients, workers, employers, unions, and taxpayers – to compare prices within and across hospitals, providers, and plans and choose the lowest price. Competition will pressure high-priced providers and facilities to reduce their prices.

• The Osceola School District in Florida saved \$21 million on healthcare spending in its first two years of price transparently contracting for healthcare, allowing it to increase teachers' salaries.

Full implementation of price transparency will reduce the deficit by lowering government spending on healthcare, allowing for increases to wages, bonuses, and corporate earnings (all taxable income).

Montana's state employee health plan <u>saved \$121 million per year</u> through a price transparent model. Those savings enabled the state to raise wages. The same model can be applied to the federal employees' health plans and employers and unions nationwide.

Timely data standards and robust enforcement of price transparency requirements will fight corporate greed and protect consumers' dignity and financial futures by preventing overcharges, price-gouging, and medical debt, empowering patients with remedy and recourse when they've been overcharged.

• Colorado patient Mason was billed \$18,000 for an EpiPen for an emergency room visit. He used price transparency data to prove he was overcharged, and the hospital waived his bill.

<u>The PatientRightsAdvocate.org Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report</u> **found only 14.3% of hospitals were in compliance with the law.** To date, HHS has assessed no penalties for noncompliance. Consumers still struggle to access real prices due to hospitals hiding prices behind the estimator tool or in complicated pricing files.

To fully realize the benefits of systemwide healthcare price transparency, we encourage the Biden Administration to:

- Eliminate the price estimator tool and replace with actual, upfront binding prices,
- Implement this year clear, specific pricing data standards to enable broad, consumer access and comparative choice, and
- Robustly and timely enforce the Hospital Price Transparency Rule, and do not delay implementation of the Transparency in Coverage Rule.