

THE ISSUE: Healthcare Transparency & Affordability

Since 1986 NFIB members' top concern has been the cost of health insurance. Employers with 50 or fewer employees are much less likely to offer this benefit than larger companies. State government can play a role in healthcare costs. State-imposed health insurance mandates tend to put upward pressure on premiums leaving our members with difficult decisions on whether to increase employee contributions, reduce benefits, or stop offering health insurance altogether. Transparency of healthcare costs empowers consumers to make sound decisions on where to seek care.

TALKING POINTS:

- 1) Healthcare Transparency Legislation:** House Bill 49 passed House Insurance Committee with broad, bipartisan support. The bill requires hospitals to provide consumers with information on the cost of services, etc. This bill expands on existing federal law. What commodity does one purchase not knowing what it costs? Healthcare represents nearly 1/6 of the economy. *Empowering individuals with the cost of services allows for a robust evaluation of where to seek treatment.*

Action Alert! Support Healthcare Cost Transparency!

Price transparency benefits all purchasers in the healthcare system. Federal law requires hospitals to disclose their prices. House Bill 49 enhances this action and empowers consumers!

- 2) No More Health Insurance Mandates:** The General Assembly is faced with multiple health insurance mandates each cycle. Provider, prescription drugs, specific coverages, devices, etc. all have noble causes and constituencies. However, federal ERISA law prevents these mandates from being covered by self-insured plans which tend to be larger companies. Less than 20 percent of the private sector will be covered by any mandate leaving significant gaps in coverage. This 20 percent represents the fully-insured market where most NFIB members purchase health insurance. *Urge lawmakers to avoid passing health insurance mandates.*
- 3) Equity:** Existing state law requires the Department of Insurance to verify any newly enacted health insurance mandate applies to self-insured plans prior to it becoming effective. Most mandate bills notwithstanding this language essentially ignore the statute. If a public health need is so great, the state of Ohio should find creative ways to provide coverage for all Ohioans. *Encourage creative solutions to provide coverage to all, not politically expedient action that leaves small businesses footing the bill.*

Do you offer health insurance?

Share your Health Insurance Costs with your legislators!

_____ 2023 costs _____% increase from 2022

_____ 2022 costs _____% increase from 2021

- 4) Offset Premium Increases:** If a health insurance mandate passes, any increased premium costs attributable to the mandate should result in a premium tax credit for small business plan purchasers. *Small businesses should receive tax credits to offset health insurance premium increases from mandates.*