

HJR 20 Study: Health Care Price Transparency
Panel Discussion: Consumer Views on Transparency in Pricing

Prepared by Rep. Kathy Kelker, HJR 20 Subcommittee Presiding Officer
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Background

The HJR 20 Subcommittee will hear about consumer views of transparency in health care pricing from panelists representing insurers, hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and the public.

The panelists have been asked to specifically address the following questions:

1. What do you think consumers want in terms of transparency in pricing?
2. Should health care price transparency concentrate on procedures and surgeries or should it cover the whole range of health care services?
3. Do healthy individuals need different kinds of transparency information than do people with chronic illnesses? How are their medical choices and costs different?
4. What do hospital patients want to know?
5. What do ambulatory patients want to know?
6. Why do you think consumers get “surprise bills” when they have had medical treatments? How can surprise bills be avoided?
7. The research on electronic transparency tools shows that these tools are not used by most consumers and when they are used the consumers aren’t satisfied with the information they get. Why do you think these tools are not helpful for consumers?