



Coalition of Wisconsin Employer Groups Concerned About Health Care Costs

Healthcare costs in Wisconsin are some of the highest in the nation, placing a growing burden on our local businesses' ability to thrive. As our state legislators plan for the 2023 legislative agenda, we need the health of our employer community prioritized and the tools to fight against price markups protected. Higher healthcare costs are a burden to both employers and employees.

Last year, Wisconsin's business community came together to form the Coalition of Wisconsin Employer Groups Concerned about Health Care Costs. Since its inception the coalition has been hard at work debunking myths around true cost-saving measures like alternative sourcing (commonly referred to as "white bagging"), a process implemented to deliver clinically administered drugs directly to patients, when appropriate. Proposals to eliminate "white bagging" have been disguised as cost-saving, patient-protecting measures - when in reality, these proposals are an attempt to fatten hospital profits by removing one of the few resources available to negotiate lower prices for specialty medications on behalf of patients.

Studies continually cite hospital prices as the [number one](#) driver behind the skyrocketing cost of care in America. This doesn't come as a surprise considering, [on average](#), hospitals charge patients 479% of their acquisition cost and 83% charge patients and insurers more than double their acquisition cost for medicine. Wisconsinites feel this reality more than most, as our state ranks among the [5 states](#) with the highest hospital prices in the country.

Employers like myself, dedicated to providing affordable, quality healthcare coverage to our employees, rely on critical tools such as white-bagging to combat hospital's monopolistic billing practices. We need Wisconsin lawmakers to remember the impact affordable healthcare has on our economic stability. With this in mind, I urge our state legislators to oppose any legislative proposals that would further compound the already unreasonable cost burden shouldered by Wisconsin's business community and promote policy solutions that would actually see healthcare prices decrease.

Willard T. Walker Jr.
Walker Forge
Willard.Walker@walkerforge.com