



April 11, 2025

The Honorable Gary VanDeaver
Chair
House Committee on Public Health
1100 Congress Avenue, Room E2.172
Austin, TX 78701

The Honorable Liz Campos
Vice Chair
House Committee on Public Health
1100 Congress Avenue, Room E2.172
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Support of House Bill 2556, Relating to certain health care transaction fees and payment claims and inclusion of a national provider identifier on a payment claim; providing an administrative penalty.

Dear Chair VanDeaver, Vice-Chair Campos, and Members of the Committee:

As a representative of Texas' 3.3 million small businesses, Small Business Majority writes today in support of HB 2556, which would support entrepreneurs across the state by addressing unfair and abusive facility fees.

Small Business Majority is a small business organization that empowers diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations to advocate for public policy solutions and deliver resources to entrepreneurs that promote equitable small business growth.

Access to clear and transparent healthcare billing is essential to the economic wellbeing of the small business community. Unfortunately, small business owners often find themselves surprised by mysterious hospital facility fees for routine and preventative care. This is increasing their costs as patients because unclear billing makes it difficult for them to avoid fees or negotiate fair costs.

We support HB 2556 because it addresses facility fees. Firstly, the bill would establish billing transparency by enacting a 10-day advance notice to patients. Before any health care service outside a hospital or ER that will include a facility fee, patients must receive a written notice 10 days in advance to avoid a surprise bill and allow patients to shop for lower cost care. What's more, hospital systems must notify employers and health insurers 90 days in advance when implementing new facility fees to allow time to help patients avoid facility fees or negotiate lower prices. HB 2556 would also require honest billing through a National Provider Identifier and would prohibit facility fees for preventative care and telehealth.

Business owners are busy enough, and billing should be clear and transparent to save them time. This will allow business owners to get back to focusing on their business rather than spending hours figuring out their medical bills. We urge the committee to move forward and pass House Bill 2556 to support small businesses across the state.

Sincerely,

Awesta Sarkash
Senior Public Policy Director
Small Business Majority