



**American Hospital  
Association**

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**STATEMENT ON H.R. 6053,  
THE “HEALTH CARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006”**

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September 13, 2006

More and more, people are looking for information to help them make their own health care decisions. In turn, America’s hospitals are working hard to share useful information, including information about hospital prices, that help patients and consumers when making choices about their care.

That’s why we strongly support the Health Care Price Transparency Act of 2006. It requires hospitals to report to the public information on specific inpatient and outpatient charges. With 32 states already requiring hospitals to report pricing information and six more voluntarily doing so, this legislation builds upon the good work the hospital field is already doing.

To help inform consumers, the legislation requires insurers to provide information about an enrollee’s expected out-of-pocket expenses. This type of information is especially important to the majority of consumers, who already have some type of health insurance coverage. The bill also charges the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to conduct a study on information consumers want and would use in their health care decision-making. While we have research on the kind of information consumers want about health care quality, we know less about what they might want to know about pricing information. This research is essential if we are to reach the goal of providing useful information that helps people make informed decisions about their care.

America’s hospitals commend Representative Burgess for introducing this key legislation that will benefit all Americans. We stand ready to work with Congress and other policymakers on ways to share information that’s valuable and helpful for patients and consumers.