

For Immediate Release  
July 18, 2024  
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*In case you missed it!*

## Sen. Hassan: “Unfair” hospital billing practices driving up costs

During a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee [hearing](#) this week, **Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH) said “unfair” hospital billing practices are “one of the many factors driving health care costs and medical debt is unfair fees for routine care, even for Americans who have health insurance.”**

“I’ve heard from Granite Staters who’ve been charged hundreds or thousands of dollars for a regular doctor’s visit just because their doctor’s office has been purchased by a hospital.” Sen. Hassan said, asking witnesses to discuss some of the root causes driving those practices.

Benedic Ippolito, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, explained, **“We have a number of policies on the books that encourage lots of consolidation on the provider side.** And what that allows people to do is both take advantage of rules in Medicare to charge higher prices and in the commercial market, charge higher prices to anybody who walks through the door. So the combination of those two things clearly contributes to high health costs, and it surely contributes to medical debt.”

When Hassan asked how to “curb these trends,” Ippolito said, **“site-neutral payment seems like a number one.”**

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** supports site-neutral payment reforms and transparency policies that aim to eliminate payment discrepancies based on the site-of-care. We applaud legislation to close the loophole that exists in Medicare payment law that unintentionally incentivizes unfair hospital billing practices, including the bipartisan Site-based Invoicing and Transparency Enhancement (SITE) Act (S. 1869), which Sen. Hassan sponsored with Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN), and the House-passed Lower Costs More Transparency Act, which includes provisions to expand site-neutral payments to certain outpatient drugs and ensure fair billing practices for care provided by off-campus hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs).

**The Alliance strongly urges the Senate to take up these proposals, which have broad stakeholder support** from physicians, employers, patient advocacy groups and more, including the Alliance to Fight for Health Care, American Benefits Council, Families USA, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Physicians, Community Oncology Alliance, US Oncology Network, National Restaurant Association, and more.

The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** is a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, patient advocates, employer organizations, unions, health care companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders that support employer-provided health coverage. Together, we are working to ensure that employer-provided coverage remains an available and affordable option for working Americans and their families.