

Support SB 926 & HB 1959

Remove Barriers to Lower Out-of-Pocket Costs for Higher Value Care

Patients lack incentives to shop for lower cost, higher quality health care services and providers. Anticompetitive, outdated laws and regulations prevent health insurance options that encourage patients to be smart shoppers.

What the legislation does:

- Builds on the success of HB 711 (88R)—which eliminated anti-competitive barriers to care—by addressing remaining regulatory mandates that hinder transparency and patient engagement.
- Allows insurers to reward patients with lower out-of-pocket costs when they choose higher-value providers and services.
- Reforms outdated laws restricting insurers from sharing provider cost and quality rankings based on nationally recognized standards.
- Establishes a fiduciary duty requiring insurers to prioritize the best interests of patients when designing benefit structures.

Why it matters:

- Federal Transparency rules promote shopping for value, but Texas regulations stand in the way of patients getting more involved in health care decision-making with shared savings like lower co-pays.
- Innovative health plans that incentivize shopping for value have reduced health care costs by 5%.
- Shopping incentives are common for self-funded employers exempt from state mandates but blocked for the rest of insured Texans.

The bottom line:

- State laws should be modernized this session to allow innovative health benefits that reward patients who make value driven health care decisions.

