

HCS HB 530 -- HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH
INSURANCE PLANS

SPONSOR: Hausman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Insurance by a vote of 10 to 2 with 1 voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 0 with 1 voting present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 530.

This bill establishes the "Patients First Act".

This bill prohibits a group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group or individual health insurance coverage from discriminating with respect to participation under the plan or coverage against any health care provider who is acting within the scope of the provider's license or certificate with an exclusion for physicians licensed under chapter 334.

The health benefit plan cannot discriminate against a health care provider based on the provider's licensure with respect to reimbursement or participation in any plan or insurance program.

The bill requires a health care provider to be reimbursed at the same rate for the same service as long as the service is within the provider's scope of practice, but these provisions should not be construed to prevent a group health plan or a health insurance issuer from establishing varying reimbursement rates based on quality or performance measures.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 2733 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that health care costs will go down if patients can get procedures in an outpatient setting the same as in a hospital. This bill will level the playing field for the health care services provided by all health care providers. Health care providers should be paid the same and not less for services that are equal to other providers.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Hausman; Jill Nelson, Back To Health; Missouri Podiatric Medical Association; Dr. Quinn James, Missouri Chiropractic Physicians Associates; REACH

Healthcare Foundation; Arnie Dienoff; Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists; Missouri Rural Health Association; and Missouri Nurses Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that not all health care providers are the same. Some have better equipment and training. A higher level of service should be reimbursed more.

Testifying in person against the bill were PCMA; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; America's Health Insurance Plans; Missouri Insurance Coalition.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.