

## HEALTHCARE PRICE TRANSPARENCY IN MISSOURI

# The Policy



Healthcare price transparency is the essential practice of providing clear and accessible information about the costs of medical services and procedures. This empowers Missourians to make informed decisions and encourages competition among healthcare providers to help mitigate high healthcare expenses.

### The Facts



Over the past decade, the price of hospital services nationally has skyrocketed by more than 45%.



Despite the federal government requiring hospitals transparency disclose their prices since 2021, estimates suggest that less than 40% of American hospitals are fully compliant today.



In Missouri, the price of a pelvic CT scan at a single hospital can vary by a multiple of 20.



Studies have found wide variation in prices paid for healthcare procedures across regions, among hospitals, and even within the same hospital based on the type of insurance (or lack thereof) a patient has.

#### **Good Price Transparency Policy Checklist**



- Codify the federal healthcare price transparency rules into state law.
- Ensure patients have easy access to consumer-friendly and machine-readable price lists.
- Create state-level remedies to strengthen enforcement and noncompliance penalties.
- Protect patients from opaque pricing by banning noncompliant hospitals from pursuing debt collection for unpaid bills.

#### **PUBLIC SUPPORT**

88% of Americans favor requiring insurers, hospitals, doctors, and other providers to disclose the cost of their services.



Talk to a Policy Expert

Aaron Hedlund Chief Economist Aaron.Hedlund@showmeinstitute.org