



Missouri House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 3, 2025

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State Rep. Brad Christ Files HB 502 to Ensure Transparent and Honest Medical Billing

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – In an effort to increase transparency and fairness in medical billing practices across the Show-Me State, State Representative Brad Christ has filed House Bill 502, also known as the "Honest Billing Act". This legislation is designed to protect patients from unexpected charges and ensure they are receiving clear, honest billing for their outpatient medical services.

"Missourians deserve to know exactly what they are being billed for when they seek medical care," Rep. Christ, R-St. Louis, said. "The Honest Billing Act ensures that off-campus outpatient departments of medical facilities cannot hide behind the billing practices of their main campuses. Patients should not have to worry about surprise charges because of unclear or deceptive billing."

The Honest Billing Act would mandate that off-campus outpatient departments of medical facilities apply for, obtain, and use a National Provider Identifier (NPI) that is distinct from the NPI used by the main campus. Starting January 1, 2025, all claims submitted to health insurance carriers for services provided at these locations would be required use the unique NPI to identify where the care was actually delivered.

Under HB 502, facilities or entities acting on their behalf will be prohibited from billing patients for services unless they comply with this requirement. Health carriers are not obligated to reimburse claims that do not follow these new guidelines, ensuring that billing transparency is upheld.

"This bill is about accountability," Rep. Christ emphasized. "It protects patients by holding medical facilities to higher standards and provides recourse for those who experience any billing violations."

HB 502 reinforces Missouri's commitment to protecting consumers and holding medical institutions accountable, as any violations of the Honest Billing Act will fall under the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, which would give the Missouri Attorney General authority to enforce penalties. Additionally, the Department of Health and Senior Services would have the ability to impose penalties

after due process, and the Department of Commerce and Insurance may refer violations for further enforcement.

The Honest Billing Act also requires that any medical facility applying for a new or renewed state license must demonstrate compliance with these NPI requirements as a condition of their licensure.

“We’re taking meaningful steps to safeguard patients from confusing and misleading medical bills,” Rep. Christ said. “This is a significant step forward in promoting transparency and fairness in healthcare.”

*Representative Brad Christ, a Republican, represents part of St. Louis County (District 96) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Christ at 573-751-2150 or by email at **Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov**.*

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