



 **EMPLOYERS' FORUM OF INDIANA**  
Addressing the challenges of the local healthcare marketplace

# 2023 Indiana Legislative Health Policy Media Coverage

# Media Coverage: January 5 - 12

## January 5

1. Op/Ed from Dan Evans of IU Health: Government price fixing won't lower health care costs in Indiana. Here's what will. ([Indianapolis Star](#))

## January 9

2. Three bills in Indiana Senate take aim at health-care costs, practices ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))
3. Republicans and Democrats lay out legislative priorities for 2023 legislative session ([WRTV](#))
4. Budget, abortion, marijuana expected topics in Indiana legislative session ([WTHR](#))

## January 10

5. Indiana Senate Democrats, Republicans release legislative agendas ([Fort Wayne Business Weekly](#))
6. Indiana Senate Republicans make health care, fiscal responsibility priorities in 2023 session ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))

## January 12

7. Indiana Senate Democrats share their priorities for 2023 legislative session ([Hamilton County Reporter](#))
8. Op/Ed from Al Hubbard of Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare: Indiana health care costs should be lowered to national average ([Evansville Courier & Press](#))\*
9. Healthcare costs will probably top Indiana legislative priorities in 2023 ([Lebanon Reporter](#))
10. Indiana House Republicans propose fines for hospitals with high fees ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))\*
11. High school changes, lower health care costs, affordable housing on House GOP's agenda ([WFYI](#))

# Media Coverage: January 14 - 19

## January 14

12. Op/Ed from Marty Wood of the Insurance Institute of Indiana: Care coordination, cost-containment measures under attack for employers ([Newcastle Courier-Times and syndicated](#))

## January 16

13. The first week of the 2023 legislation began with visions of enhancing education and health care ([Indiana Public Radio](#))

## January 18

14. Hoosiers are paying more for hospital care. Here's how lawmakers want to solve the problem. ([State Affairs Indiana](#))\*
15. Op/Ed from Al Hubbard of Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare: Cost containment in hospitals' hands ([Fort Wayne Journal Gazette](#))
16. Op/Ed from Edmund Abel, healthcare consultant: Insurers must shoulder blame for high health costs ([Fort Wayne Journal Gazette](#))

## January 19

17. Here's how GOP lawmakers in Indiana hope to address high health care costs ([WFYI](#))

# Media Coverage: January 21 - 26

## January 21

18. Op/Ed from Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel): Budget, education, health care top priority list this session ([Hamilton County Reporter](#))

## January 23

19. How GOP lawmakers in Indiana hope to address high health care costs ([Indianapolis Recorder](#))

## January 25

20. Indiana Senate panel advances bill to prohibit non-compete agreements for physicians ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))\*
21. Physician non-compete bill passes Indiana Senate committee, could be softened by amendments ([WFYI](#))

## January 26

22. Senate panel advances physician non-compete bill ([Inside Indiana Business](#))\*
23. Public Health Day emphasizes efforts by advocates to increase investment in public health systems ([WFYI](#))
24. Press release: Hoosiers for Health Care Access Applauds Legislation Expanding Health Access, Choice ([PR Newswire](#))
25. Prior authorizations focus of testimony on health care bill ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
26. Indiana physician noncompete ban passes Senate committee ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))

# Media Coverage: January 28 - 31

## January 28

27. Editorial from *Indianapolis Business Journal*: Legislature's efforts to control health care costs a good start (syndicated in [Seymour Tribune](#))
28. Legislators report a busy start to the General Assembly session ([Muncie Star Press](#))

## January 31

29. Op-Ed from Marty Wood of Insurance Institute of Indiana: Care coordination and cost-containment measures under attack for employers ([Inside Indiana Business](#))
30. Op-Ed from CEOs of Clark Memorial Health and Baptist Health Floyd: Decisions in Indianapolis could have devastating impact on local hospitals, community ([News and Tribune](#))
31. Hospitals balk at Indiana lawmakers' plan to lower health care costs ([WISH](#))\*
  - Features interview with Forum member Dr. Ron Piniacki
32. Indiana: The Surprise Hospital Fee You May Get Just for Seeing a Doctor ([NFIB blog](#))
  - Support for SB 6 from the National Federation of Independent Businesses
    - *Senate Bill 6 "provides a crucial step toward restoring affordable healthcare by addressing one of the most egregious practices driving up Indiana's healthcare costs: dishonest billing. Dishonest billing occurs when hospitals reclassify a patient's off-campus visit as a "hospital-based service." It is nothing more than a revenue-generating tactic leveraged by large hospital systems to drive up healthcare costs and increases their profit margins. On average, care classified as "delivered in a hospital" costs 300% more than the same care delivered in an office-based setting."*

# Media Coverage: January 31 – February 1

## January 31

33. **Healthcare Matters House Bill No 1004 ([Nefouse blog](#))\***
  - Support for HB 1004 from benefits consultants
34. **Indiana bill would fine hospitals that exceed price cap ([WTTV](#))**
  - Includes interview with Matt Bell of Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare
35. **Op-Ed from Dennis Murphy of IU Health: When it comes to health care, Indiana Republicans ignore free market principles ([Indianapolis Star](#))**

## February 1

36. **Editorial from *Indianapolis Business Journal*: Legislature's efforts to control health care costs a good start (syndicated in [Seymour Tribune](#))**
37. **Mixed testimony on cumulative health care bill ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))\***
  - A poor write-up of the hearing on HB 1004
38. **Indiana hospitals paint bleak financial picture ([Inside Indiana Business](#) and IBJ)**
  - IHA hosted a press conference where three hospital CEOs talked about financial struggles in 2022 as a way of trying to influence legislators against taking action on healthcare prices
39. **Indiana hospitals suffer toughest financial year since pre-pandemic ([WRTV](#))**
40. **Indiana hospitals are in the red, and they don't agree with lawmakers on how to cut costs ([WFYI](#))\***

# Media Coverage: February 3 - 6

## February 3

41. Op-Ed from IU Health's Art Vasquez: State GOP healthcare proposals have unintended consequences ([Lafayette Journal & Courier](#))
  - Written in opposition to every leadership and EFI-supported bill
42. Doctors ask lawmakers to free them from noncompete agreements ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))\*

## February 5

43. Indiana statehouse holds hearing on bill that would limit practices that increase healthcare costs ([Network Indiana](#))

## February 6

44. Indiana lawmakers propose large fines for expensive hospital care ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))
45. Indiana lawmakers try to force hospitals to lower prices ([Indianapolis Star](#))\*
  - *"Indiana hospital prices rank 7th highest in the nation as of 2020, with hospitals and physicians charging employers and insurers nearly three times what they charge Medicare for services, according to a Rand Corporation study. When only looking at facility charges, Indiana ranks 4th highest, charging 330% of Medicare rates. The national averages aren't much better: 224% and 263%, respectively."*
46. Pandemic costs have some Indiana hospitals considering cutting services, closure ([Indianapolis Star](#))
  - From IHA press conference : *"What we don't need are new policies that would be punitive or harmful,"* said Brian Tabor, Indiana Hospital Association president.

# Media Coverage: February 7 - 9

## February 7

- 47. **Michael J. Hicks: HB1004 would restrict hospital monopolies ([Syndicated](#))**
  - Column published across the state and [summarized nationally](#) in favor of HB 1004
- 48. **IHA sponsored content: Transparency leads to market solutions ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))**
- 49. **Physician non-compete ban passes Indiana Senate intact ([WFY!](#))**
  - Refers to the passage of SB7 by 45-5 from Indiana Senate

## February 8

- 50. **Senate approves doctor non-compete ban ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
- 51. **Hospital officials, lawmakers weigh in on health care legislation ([News and Tribune](#))\***
  - Highlights opposition from New Albany-area hospitals to HB 1004

## February 9

- 52. **Op-Ed from Gloria and EFI: Now is the time for action on healthcare prices ([Inside Indiana Business](#))\***
  - This op-ed was shared statewide, and printed in CNHI papers like the [Kokomo Tribune](#); it will also be in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* this weekend
  - Please share!
- 53. **Senators pass 'site of service' bill with reservations ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))\***
  - Refers to passage of SB6 out of committee



# Media Coverage: February 10 - 14

## February 10

54. **Op-Ed from Jim Shella (former broadcaster): Noncompete clauses need to be eliminated ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))**
  - Former Indianapolis anchor used his own experience to show the folly of noncompete clauses: *“The FTC believes that noncompete clauses are an unfair method of competition. It says 30 million workers would benefit from the elimination of noncompete clauses. Worker salaries would increase \$250 billion a year or more, according to FTC analysis.”*
55. **Indiana Senate Approves Ban on Doctor Noncompete Agreements ([JD Supra](#))**
  - Refers to the passage of SB 7 by 45-5 from Indiana Senate
56. **Indiana Senate Approves Ban on Doctor Noncompete Agreements ([National Law Review](#))**
  - Refers to the passage of SB 7 by 45-5 from Indiana Senate

## February 11

57. **Area doctor supports bill to ban physician noncompete agreements ([Fort Wayne Journal Gazette](#))**
  - Tells story of SB 7 through the eyes of Dr. Neal Agee, a surgical oncologist in Fort Wayne; EFI was interviewed for this story, but did not appear in the final version

## February 14

58. **Rowray bill to expand birth control access clears committee ([Muncie Star Press](#))**
  - Refers to the passage of HB 1568 allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients contraceptives

# Media Coverage: February 14 - 16

## February 14

59. **Rural hospitals worry as lawmakers move to lower costs for patients ([WFYI](#))\***
  - Summarizes Indiana Hospital Association and some rural hospital opposition to many bills supported by EFI
60. **Indiana house committee advances bill to increase birth control access ([WFYI](#))**
  - The House Committee on Public Health unanimously approved HB 1568, a measure that would allow pharmacists to prescribe hormonal birth control to people 18 and older without an appointment.

## February 16

61. **Op-Ed from Gloria Sachdev: Lawmakers target Hoosiers' high health care costs ([Fort Wayne Journal Gazette](#))\***
  - Third placement of Gloria's op-ed on the need for action now; the *Journal-Gazette* held the piece to run alongside an op-ed from Brian Tabor of the Indiana Hospital Association
62. **Op-Ed from Brian Tabor of IHA: Government interference not the answer ([Fort Wayne Journal Gazette](#))\***
  - A rebuttal to Gloria's op-ed which cites little to no data and offers no solutions for lowering healthcare prices in Indiana
63. **Lawmakers, hospitals in talks on legislation to lower hospital prices ([Muncie Star Press](#))\***
  - Features interview with Gloria and other stakeholders: *"Gloria Sachdev is confident the way hospital pricing has worked in Indiana is going to change this year."*

# Media Coverage: February 16

February 16

64. **Op-Ed from Matt Doyle, CEO of Methodist Hospitals: Decisions in Indianapolis could have devastating impact here** ([NW Indiana Business](#))
  - Argues that SB 6, SB 7, HB 1003 and HB 1004 would *“further erode the viability of hospitals and implement government rate setting”* and *“would not improve health care in our community but would instead incentivize consolidation and force more rural and safety net hospitals to close.”*
65. **Prescription savings under PBMs and manufacturer rebates a source of confusion** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
  - Covers SB 8 on pharmacy benefit managers; EFI submitted written testimony
66. **Indiana lawmakers advance bill aimed at lowering drug costs** ([WXIN](#))
  - Covers SB 8 on pharmacy benefit managers; EFI submitted written testimony
67. **Op-Ed from Jerome Adams, former Surgeon General: Mental health bill is imperative** ([Columbus Republic](#))
  - Covers SB 1, authored by Sen. Mike Crider
68. **Lawmakers, hospitals in talks on legislation to lower hospital prices** ([Muncie Star Press](#))\*
  - Features interview with Gloria and other stakeholders: *“Gloria Sachdev is confident the way hospital pricing has worked in Indiana is going to change this year.”*
69. **Op-Ed from Matt Doyle, CEO of Methodist Hospitals: Decisions in Indianapolis could have devastating impact here** ([NW Indiana Business](#))
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# Media Coverage: February 17

February 17

- 70. Recent Indiana Hospital Association meeting outlines rising costs; offers some solutions ([Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly](#))**
- Write-up of report commissioned by IHA from Chicago's Kaufman Hall
  - Solutions included dramatically decreasing the use of expensive contract labor, partnering with educational institutions to train more nurses to help alleviate the chronic nursing shortage, and restructuring the paperwork associated with private insurance (including pre-authorization)
- 71. Hospital Price Caps Among State Ideas to Lower Health-Care Costs ([Bloomberg Law](#))\***
- Uses the current debate in Indiana to tell a story about healthcare prices across the nation (except below):
    - *States looking to cut health-care costs are weighing ideas such as capping hospital rates based on Medicare payments, which are generally lower than rates employer-sponsored plans pay. Legislation being considered in Indiana (House Bill 1004) includes a provision that would penalize nonprofit hospitals that charge more than 260% of Medicare rates. Most of the state's hospitals are nonprofits.*
    - *The legislation "will actually help lower prices effectively immediately for Hoosiers—for workers and their employers," Gloria Sachdev, president and CEO of the Employers' Forum of Indiana, said in an interview.*

# Media Coverage: February 20 - 22

## February 20

- 72. Editorial from *News and Tribune*: Lawmakers must be wary when considering medical costs ([News and Tribune](#))\*
- 73. Democrats propose budget alternatives as spending bill advances to House floor ([Indiana Public Media](#))
  - Covers full state budget, including public health funding

## February 21

- 74. House GOP budget advances to full chamber, with questions about K-12, public health funding ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
  - Covers full state budget, including public health funding
  - “We fundamentally believe this legislation interferes with a parent’s right to choose the best possible care and potentially-life saving care for their child as it pertains to these services,” said Tory Castor, senior vice president of government affairs at IU Health.

## February 22

- 75. Indiana Senate moves bill banning gender-affirming health care for transgender kids ([Indianapolis Star](#))
  - Senate Bill 480, opposed by LGBTQ+ advocates and health providers
- 76. Indiana lawmakers advance ban on all gender-affirming care ([Associated Press](#))
- 77. Indiana Senate committee advances bill that would ban gender transitioning procedures for anyone under 18 ([WXIN](#))

# Media Coverage: February 22 - 23

## February 22

**78. Safety net hospitals facing risk of service cuts, Methodist CEO says ([Times of Northwest Indiana](#))**

- Taken from Statehouse testimony of Matt Doyle, CEO of Northwest Indiana's Methodist Hospitals

**79. Expert: Indiana's proposed budget needs more on public health ([WISH TV](#))**

- Katy Hilts, an assistant professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, said, "We are not funding our tobacco-control program at the level that we should be doing. Eighty-five percent of youth, or I think around that amount, you know, report using flavored e cigarettes."

## February 23

**80. Bills to lower drug costs and increase access to home health aides pass Senate committee ([Indianapolis Recorder](#))**

- Includes news on SB 8 regarding PBMs

**81. Eyeing health care costs, Indiana lawmakers want to ban doctor noncompetes ([Indianapolis Star](#))**

- Covers HB 1004 and SB 7, including an interview with Forum member Dr. Ron Piniacki

# Media Coverage: February 24 - 28

## February 24

82. **Op-Ed from Natalie Robinson of NFIB in Indiana: Dishonest billing practices add pain to small businesses ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))\***
- “If Indiana’s hospital prices were reduced to the national average, Hoosier families would save, on average, \$2,500 every year.”
83. **340B Hospital Transparency Bill Dies in Indiana ([340B Report](#))**
- The wide-ranging hospital transparency bill, which was sponsored by long-time State Rep. Martin Carbaugh (R), was introduced on Jan. 11 and sent to the House Committee on Insurance for further action. However, HB 1291 did not receive a hearing and therefore is not moving forward.

## February 26

84. **Legislature looking at health care costs, non-competes ([The Republic](#))\***

## February 28

85. **Op-Ed from Hendricks Regional Health physician: Many Hoosiers lack access to medical care, Indiana General Assembly can fix that ([Indianapolis Star/Yahoo!](#))**
- “This session, House Bill (HB) 1330 has been introduced in the House, and Senate Bill (SB) 213 in the Senate, to modernize our state laws and remove the requirement for our state’s nurses to sign physician contracts. In states that have taken similar actions, the APRN workforce has quickly expanded.”

# Media Coverage: February 28 - March 2

## February 28

- 86. **Massive medical bills? Delayed care? These bills could help.** ([Indianapolis Star](#))
  - Covers SB 400 and HB 1003, specifically on prior authorizations.
- 87. **Indiana Senate joins states trying to limit transgender care** ([Associated Press](#))
  - Indiana Republican state Senators voted Tuesday to advance a ban on all gender-affirming care for those under 18, the latest in this year's movement by conservative states aiming to limit the rights of transgender youth. The bill passed the Senate 36-12, sending it to the House despite last week's contentious committee hearing that primarily featured testimony from vocal opponents.
- 88. **Price caps, spending floors, and penalties, oh my! The latest in state hospital policy** ([Lown Institute](#))\*
  - Roundup of state health policy debates across the country, with a specific focus on Indiana

## March 1

- 89. **Indiana Chamber offers analysis at Legislative Session Midpoint** ([WBIW](#))
  - Includes reference to a study just released by the Fairbanks Foundation found that smoking costs Indiana businesses \$3.1 billion a year in extra health care costs, absenteeism, and lost productivity.

## March 2

- 90. **Several bills that aim to lower health care costs in Indiana cleared the Senate and House** ([WFYI](#))
  - Full roundup of SB 6, SB 7, SB 8, HB 1003, and HB 1004



# Media Coverage: March 3

March 3

91. **Health care bills aim to reform insurance, Medicaid reimbursement rates ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
  - In the House Chamber, lawmakers sent two health care bills – both caucus priorities for Republicans – for consideration in the Senate. (HB 1003 and HB 1004)
92. **Column from Niki Kelly: Health care costs are out of control; at least the General Assembly is trying to help ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
  - “Republicans in the House and Senate are trying very hard to make an impact. Some might say they are throwing everything at the wall and seeing what sticks. And it’s not a bad analogy. They range from big ideas to small ones, but if each change helps a little, maybe by the end, Hoosiers will see a difference. Much of the focus so far has been on hospital costs, but they also need to address prescription drugs.”