



# 2023 Indiana Legislative Health Policy Media Coverage

# Media Coverage: January 1 - 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 13 - 20

## 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 - 27

## 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 2

## 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 ([WFYI](#))**
  - 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](#))
  - 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.*”

# Media Coverage: February 17 - 20

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 Piniecki

# 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.”
93. **Indiana Hospital Association pushes for passage of HB 1460 to help alleviate staffing challenges in hospitals ([WRTV](#))**
  - "This session, one of our major priorities is workforce. Our healthcare workforce has been depleted, and as we rebuild, we really need help from the General Assembly to help speed up the process of getting our doctors or nurses or other professionals licensed quickly," said IHA President Brian Tabor.
94. **Indiana senators advance two bills that critics say are 'anti-LGBTQ' ([Westlaw](#))**
  - Refers to SB 350 and SB 480 on gender care

# Media Coverage: March 4 - 8

## March 6

- 95. **Nearly 90% of Doctors Support Federal Ban on Noncompetes ([Op-Med](#))**
  - The vast majority of physicians (87%) support the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) proposed new rule that would ban employers from imposing noncompete clauses, according to a recent Doximity poll.
- 96. **Statehouse roundup: These bills survived the first half of session**
  - Senate Bill 7, which proposes getting rid of noncompete clauses for physicians, passed the Senate 45-5 on Feb. 7 and is heading to the House.
- 97. **Ascension shuts doctor offices in much-needed areas, invests in profitable hospitals ([Indianapolis Star](#))\***
  - Includes interview with Gloria Sachdev and NASHP

## March 7

- 98. **FTC pushes back deadline for public to weigh in on noncompete ban ([Healthcare Dive](#))**
  - The Federal Trade Commission will give the public an additional 30 days to comment on a sweeping proposal to ban employers from imposing noncompete contracts on their workers.

## March 8

- 99. **Proposed Legislation Moves Indiana Closer to Penalizing Nonprofit Hospitals That Charge More Than 260 Percent of Medicare Rates ([About Health Transparency](#))\***
  - Quotes older articles, but is already out of date on state of HB 1004.

# Media Coverage: March 8 - 9

## March 8

- 100. Indiana faith leaders call for full funding of mental health crisis response system ([WFYI](#))**
- The advocacy group Faith In Indiana met with lawmakers and delivered a letter, calling on them to fully fund proposed legislation, SB 1, that would boost community mental health services and the 988 crisis response hotline.

## March 9

- 101. Noncompete rule puts doctors, hospitals at odds (Roll Call)**
- AHA cited a study in its comment letter to the FTC claiming physicians under noncompetes make more money than doctors not under those agreements.
  - There is limited data showing how many physicians are in noncompete agreements. But a 2018 study found about 45 percent of primary care doctors in group practices were under such agreements.

# Media Coverage: March 10 - 15

## March 10

102. **Op-ed from Brian Tabor of Indiana Hospital Association: Don't fall for insurance companies' dishonest word games ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))**
- Against site-of-service reform: "What is truly dishonest are these insurance companies' misrepresentations, which are merely deflections from their record profits during a time of great financial strain on hospitals. And the laws they want enacted would represent major intrusions into private contracts."

## March 13

103. **Column from Dr. Richard Feldman: Indiana Legislature missed opportunity to help with medical transparency ([Evansville Courier & Press](#))**
- "A study by SMARI Research found only half of Hoosiers surveyed felt it's easy to identify who is a physician. One in four are not sure if their regular provider is a physician. Eighty-five percent believe that it is important to know the training and education of their health-care provider."

## March 15

104. **Op-ed from Tippecanoe County Commissioners: Advocating for Tippecanoe County's public health needs ([Lafayette Journal & Courier](#))**
- In favor of public health funding in SB 4: "Indiana cannot afford to remain at the back of pack when it comes to our health. It is time to invest in Hoosiers' lives by building a public health infrastructure that meets the unique needs of all 92 counties, building a stronger and healthier tomorrow for all Hoosiers."

# Media Coverage: March 15

March 15

105. **Op-ed from Mark Isenberg of Zotec: A promising perspective on fixing health care costs in Indiana ([Inside Indiana Business](#))**
- “Insurance carriers need to be the initial payer of healthcare, they should reimburse physicians in full for their services day one, then collect the remainder of deductible or co-insurance directly from the patient. This remedy would significantly reduce overhead costs for physicians without increasing costs for patients or the state. This framework lays the foundation for a more level playing field for hospitals, physician practices and patients.”
106. **Finding freedom? Noncompete agreements facing stiff challenges on state, federal level ([Indiana Lawyer](#))**
- Includes overview of SB 7 on noncompetes and quotes from Sen. Busch: “The introduction of SB 7 is not the first time the Indiana Senate has considered bills targeting noncompete agreements, said Sen. Justin Busch, R-Fort Wayne, the bill’s author. Similar bills have been introduced in the Senate for the past three years, he said, but all have failed. “*I think this is kind of the year. We’re seeing some movement,*” Busch said. Busch’s bill is specific to the health care industry, and he said that’s because said the number one issue he hears about from constituents is the cost of health care.
107. **Op-ed from Franciscan Alliance’s Steve Beck: Yes, hospital costs in Indiana are too high. Here's why — it's not what you think ([Indianapolis Star](#))\***
- Opinion piece targeting Employers’ Forum and Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare with no supporting evidence about the true cause of high prices. “It’s easy for the Hoosiers for Affordable Health Care and the Employers’ Forum of Indiana to raise the red flag, simply shout, “*health care costs are too high*” and urge passage of legislation that will financially devastate nonprofit hospitals which, in their eyes, will bring costs down.”

# Media Coverage: March 15 - 16

## March 15

108. **Viewpoint: Proposed bills targeting hospitals will have 'massive unintended consequences' ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))\***
- Summary of previous *IndyStar* op-ed.

## March 16

109. **Op-ed from Kristen LaEace of Area Agencies on Aging: Dementia care gets personal in legislative session ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
- Rep. Greg Porter, the author of HB 1422, had talked about the impact of Alzheimer's and dementia on Indiana. About 110,000 Hoosiers are living with the disease and are supported by 216,000 unpaid family caregivers. And there is a \$1 billion annual price tag for Indiana Medicaid, with a 21.3% hospital re-admission rate driving part of those costs.

# Media Coverage: March 17 - 21

## March 18

110. **Op-Ed from former State Health Commissioner Richard Feldman: Indiana patients deserve clarity in medical care** ([Columbus Republic](#))
- Opinion piece about further defining physician and other provider roles after the enactment of SEA 239 in 2022.

## March 20

111. **More than 200 health care workers sign letter to halt gender-affirming care ban for minors** ([WFYI](#))
- “More than 200 health care professionals signed on to a letter asking for the chair of the House Public Health Committee to halt a bill banning medicinal and surgical gender-affirming care for transgender youth. Providers say Senate Bill 480 is harmful to trans youth and exacerbates Indiana’s health care worker shortage.”
112. **Op-Ed from Tasha Coppinger of Hoosier Action: Building caring communities in Indiana requires fully funding mental health infrastructure** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
- “We need the Indiana General Assembly to show up for their constituents, and choose to side with Hoosier families and to fully fund Senate Bill 1.”

## March 21

113. **Indiana Legislature advances bill banning gender-affirming care** ([WNDU](#))
- The Indiana House Public Health Committee passed SB 480 on Tuesday, meaning it will move on to the full House for consideration.

# Media Coverage: March 21 - 23

## March 21

### 114. Bill advances focusing on mental health of Hoosier police officers ([WFFT](#))

- The Senate Homeland Security and Transportation Committee passed House Bill 1321 Tuesday. The legislation would create standards for mental health and suicide prevention training. The training would be incorporated in the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and annual in-service events

## March 23

### 115. \$2 Billion price gap between Indiana's large hospitals and the national average ([WBIW](#))\*

- Quotes Gloria and Indiana Manufacturers Association CEO Brian Burton on new EFI analysis. Indiana workers and employers paid more than \$2 billion more on employee hospital care in 2020 than they would have if Indiana's market had hospital prices at the national average. Of the \$2 billion potential savings, \$1.6 billion would have come from thirty hospitals that are owned by five non-profit health systems.

### 116. Indiana bill to increase access to contraceptives stalls amid abortion worries

- House Bill 1568, authored by Rep. Elizabeth Rowray, R-Yorktown, would allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control pills, patches and rings to those over 18, which has been lauded at Statehouse hearings as necessary to increase access especially to Hoosiers in rural areas. The bill had passed the Indiana House without much trouble 86 to 12.

### 117. Senators question bill to allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control

- Pharmacist Veronica Vernon, a professor at Butler University and president of the Indiana Pharmacy Association, said there are communities where pharmacists are the only healthcare provider, helping with smoking cessation and immunizations. Other states that had enacted similar legislation actually saw cost savings, since billing for pharmacists is less than physician fees.



# Media Coverage: March 24 - 26

## March 24

118. **Containing Healthcare Costs: Indiana Lawmakers ([WFYI](#))\***
- Full episode of the TV show Indiana Lawmakers, featuring Hoosiers For Affordable Healthcare's Matt Bell, economist Michael Hicks, IHA president Brian Tabor, and Sen. Jean Breaux (D-Indianapolis).
    - Everyone should watch! The panel discusses the reasons for high healthcare prices in Indiana from an economic standpoint and what our legislature can do about it with HB 1004 and other bills this session. Matt Bell shared the Forum's analysis on the \$2 billion price gap.
119. **Ascension St. Vincent CEO Nalli leaving health system in April ([Indiana Business Journal](#))**
- Jonathan Nalli, CEO of Ascension St. Vincent, the largest health system in central Indiana by number of beds, will leave his position April 28, corporate parent St. Louis-based Ascension announced.
120. **What's Behind Losses At Large Nonprofit Health Systems? ([Health Affairs](#))**
- RAND study author Chris Whaley and friend of the Forum Ge Bai authored this article for *Health Affairs*. They make the case that "Wall Street losses should not impact private payers' and taxpayers' payments to hospitals. Asking these constituents to foot the bill for hospitals' investment losses not only lacks justification but will insulate hospitals from the consequences of their investment decisions, motivating less fiscally responsible behavior in the future."

## March 26

121. **Op-Ed from Tasha Coppinger of Hoosier Action: Indiana must fully fund mental health care plan ([Columbus Republic](#))**
- Author asks the legislature to fully fund Senate Bill 1.

# Media Coverage: March 27 - 29

## March 27

122. **Will transgender bill overshadow other health care efforts?** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
- Article makes the argument that a focus on non-priority bills like SB 480 is taking resources away from the fight against high healthcare prices.
  - Economist Michael Hicks: “The original version of House Bill 1004 “would be a very effective mechanism for restraining monopoly prices for Medicare services. But the opportunity cost of fighting the culture wars is you don’t get anything important done.”
123. **Hendricks Regional Health CEO named to lead Ascension St. Vincent** ([Indianapolis Business Journal](#))
- Kevin Speer, the president and CEO of Hendricks Regional Health, one of central Indiana’s largest suburban health systems, has been named to lead Ascension St. Vincent, a larger system that spans much of the state.
124. **Indiana bill banning gender-affirming care sent to governor** ([ABC News](#))
- The House advanced SB 480 65-30 after contentious hearings that primarily featured testimony from vocal opponents. The bill would prohibit transgender youth under 18 from accessing hormone therapies, puberty blockers and surgeries in the state.

## March 29

125. **House committee trims down Senate health care process bill** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
- A Senate proposal with multiple provisions to ease the health care process looks a lot simpler following a flurry of House committee amendments. As passed by the Senate chamber, Senate Bill 400 included an alternative licensing path for students who don’t match with a residency and revoked a dental compliance fee – the latter of which is moving in a separate House motion.

# Media Coverage: March 30 - March 31

## March 30

126. **Indiana hospital care: Employers and workers paid \$2 billion above the national average ([BenefitsPRO](#))\***
- National press for EFI's analysis showing that \$1.6 billion in savings could come from 30 nonprofit hospitals. [Syndicated here as well.](#)\*
127. **Little agreement on provisions aimed at reducing medical costs ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
- "This is really to address the large hospital systems that are consolidated... and driving the high costs," said Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel). "We've selected the largest groups because they tend to be the most consolidated."
  - Employers say that hospitals have onerous charges that increase their health care costs even when hospitals sit on healthy reserves. Andrew Berger, with the Indiana Manufacturers Association, said his organization was neutral on the bill, citing problems with the low penalty as a percentage of profits for Indiana's largest systems.
128. **Op-Ed from economist Michael Hicks: Calling out Indiana's venture capital hospitals ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
- "The damage to the Muncie economy from IU Health's monopoly is about twice as large as the economic losses that accompanied Ball Corporation Headquarters leaving for Colorado. Their annual profits are more than four times their total property tax liability if they were a for-profit entity. As shocking as that is, it is nothing like the worst thing the big five hospitals are doing to the state."
129. **Indiana lawmakers act to preserve access to out-of-state children's hospitals ([Times of Northwest Indiana](#))**
- The Senate voted 49-0 Tuesday to maintain financial support for Medicaid recipients seeking hospital care for their children in neighboring states until June 30, 2025. House Enrolled Act 1313 was approved 99-0 in the House. Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb is expected to sign the measure into law.

# Media Coverage: April 1 - 3

## April 2

130. **Walking, Not Running, Toward Healthcare Market Change ([Leaders' Edge](#))\***
- Gloria Sachdev was profiled in this comprehensive nationwide look at employers fighting for healthcare market change. Specific proposals and goals for the legislative session are mentioned, as are other proposals on the table in states across the country.

## April 3

131. **Indiana could save \$2B if hospitals lowered prices. Hospital leaders dispute this analysis ([WFYI](#))\***
- Additional press for EFI's analysis showing that \$2 billion in savings could come from lowering hospital prices to the national average. [Syndicated](#) in Health Leaders, [Becker's Hospital Review](#), and more.\*
132. **Higher costs squeeze Community Health's operating income ([Inside Indiana Business](#))**
- The Indianapolis-based hospital system said in a filing Monday that income from operations was \$32.5 million, down sharply from \$140.2 million a year earlier.
133. **Rising hospital costs concern for users and providers locally ([Washington Times-Herald](#))\***
- Focuses on EFI member and coalition partner Indiana Manufacturers Association and quotes EFI analysis. "The IMA again calls on legislators to act now to reduce these inpatient and outpatient hospital prices," said CEO Brian Burton. "A little over one month remains for legislators to reduce the \$2 billion price gap and put more money in the pockets of health care payers."

# Media Coverage: April 4 - 6

## April 4

- 134. Emotional testimony helps guide House committee approval of mental health care bill ([WFYI](#))**
- Legislation to boost mental health care services unanimously cleared a House committee Tuesday amid emotional testimony from Hoosiers. The bill, SB 1, is meant to help increase access to care through community mental health centers and provide resources for the 9-8-8 crisis response hotline.

## April 5

- 135. Indiana Gov. Holcomb signs ban on gender-affirming health care ([PBS](#))**
- Indiana's governor signed a bill banning all gender-affirming care for minors Wednesday, joining at least 12 other states that have enacted laws restricting or banning such care/ Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the legislation after Republican majorities in the Legislature approved it. The law will go into effect July 1, and trans youth currently taking medication to transition would have until the end of the year to stop doing so.

## April 6

- 136. Significant changes to drug pricing, hospital costs bills ([Inside Indiana Business](#))\***
- A wide-ranging amendment removed the following from House Bill 1004: Credits for health reimbursement arrangements, credits for physician-owned practices, a health care costs oversight board, site of service language.
  - The state will now note whether hospital prices for services exceeds 260% of Medicare.

# Media Coverage: April 6 - 9

## April 6

### 137. Trending in Telehealth : March 28 – April 3, 2023 ([National Law Review](#))

- In **Indiana** ([SB 73](#)) legislation progressed to enact the Occupational Therapy Compact and the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact.

## April 7

### 138. Doctor non-competes, anti-union bills failed to clear committee; back on calendars ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))

- SB 7, a bill banning physician non-compete agreements was thwarted — at least temporarily — by a 6-6 tie vote Thursday. The bill is back on the committee's calendar for another hearing Tuesday — and likely, another vote.

### 139. Hospitals' off-site fees draw lawmakers' scrutiny ([Axios](#))\*

- National overview of site-of-service legislation, including mention of Indiana legislation after the reporter spoke with Gloria Sachdev.
- “Some business groups like the Employers' Forum of Indiana are advocating for bans or moratoriums on the fees, citing the increased cost of offering competitive benefits.”

# Media Coverage: April 10 - 12

## April 10

- 140. **Statehouse roundup: Property tax relief, teacher handgun training** ([Indianapolis Star](#))
- 141. **Brian Tabor: Price Caps Will Make Things Worse For Indiana's Hospitals** ([WIBC](#))
  - Brian Tabor of the IHA went on *IndyPolitics* this week and said “We had a net loss at all the hospitals combined in the state of Indiana for 2022. They lost money as a system and will probably lose more money in 2023.”

## April 11

- 142. **U.S. nonprofit hospitals receive billions more in tax breaks than they invest in their communities** ([Lown Institute](#))
  - The Lown Institute claims IU Health is one of the hospitals with the largest “fair share” deficits in the U.S. in their new report examining the finances of 1,773 nonprofit hospitals. More than three-quarters fall short on expected investments in their communities. ([Read report here.](#))

## April 12

- 143. **Op-ed from physicians in Indiana: Gov. Holcomb signed a bill he called 'clear as mud.' We're confused and concerned.** ([Indianapolis Star](#))
  - “Transgender and non-binary kids are directly harmed by SB 480, but we all lose out when voices outside of Indiana are granted such large influence in our legislative process — and, for that matter, in our physician-patient relationships.”

# Media Coverage: April 12 - 13

## April 12

144. **Mixed results on bills to lower health care costs, as health care leaders express concerns** ([Indiana Public Media](#))\*
- House Bill 1004, which aims to cap hospital prices, cleared committee after it was watered down from its original version. Senate Bill 7, which aims to ban physician non-compete agreements, took two tries to clear committee. And Senate Bill 8, which aims to lower drug costs by targeting pharmacy benefit managers' profit margins, easily glided through a committee vote with few amendments.
  - Includes analysis from EFI and author interviewed Gloria Sachdev.
145. **Lawmakers curb cold alcohol sales; non-compete bill moves** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
- After deadlocking on a bill barring certain restrictions on non-compete agreement for physicians last week, the House labor committee gave their approval for an amended version. The underlying bill, Senate Bill 7, sought to prevent health systems from imposing contracts with their employees that would prevent them from continuing to work as a healthcare provider in the state—something some physicians said happens now when employers place geographic or temporal limits on departing doctors.

## April 13

146. **No voucher expansion, more health care funding in Indiana's GOP Senate budget plan** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
- Sen. Mishler said the Senate GOP plan also commits the same as the House budget — \$225 million — for public-private partnerships meant to increase public health services across the state. That's still only two-thirds of Gov. Eric Holcomb's ask for the statewide program, and less than half what the Governor's Public Health Commission originally proposed.



# Media Coverage: April 13 - 16

April 13

- 147. Parkview teams with employers to tackle higher health care costs ([WANE](#))**
- Parkview Health offered direct contracting to four employers and to split the cost of any over-budget spending; likewise, Parkview would share in any annual savings.
  - “Patients at Parkview pay more than 400% of Medicare costs and almost 90% more than the average American for the same services,” said economist Mike Hicks, “If it were truly reducing costs to the national averages, [employers] would be seeing years of double digit price declines.”
- 148. Committee deadline fatal for many bills ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
- Rep. Craig Snow, R-Warsaw, authored House Bill 1003, which would incentivize health reimbursement arrangements and address other insurance matters. Snow said he didn’t know about the future of the bill.
- 149. Rebuttal: Indiana Hospitals Not Declining Financially, But “Thriving” ([WIBC](#))\***
- “A couple of our founding board members were there when the RAND 3.0 study was released (a few years ago),” said Matt Bell with Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare. “At the time it revealed that Hoosiers pay the sixth highest price in the country for hospital services.”
  - Bell said that House Bill 1004, which Brian Tabor said would implement price caps on hospitals, in fact, does not mention anything about “price caps” on hospitals. In a nutshell, the bill states that hospitals that fail to find ways to reduce hospital care costs voluntarily will be assessed a financial penalty.

# Media Coverage: April 17 - 18

## April 17

### 150. Statehouse roundup: conversion therapy, food delivery apps, military tax cuts ([Indianapolis Star](#))

- After lawmakers restricted abortion access last summer, House Bill 1568 was intended to increase contraceptive access by allowing pharmacists to prescribe birth control pills, patches and rings to anyone over 18. The bill passed the Senate 28-20 on April 11.

## April 18

### 151. Big bills boosting mental, public health advance ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))

- Senate Bill 1 aims to fortify the relatively new 988 crisis response center and hotline with funding for mental health emergencies. It hinges on three concepts: someone for Hoosiers to call, someone to respond and somewhere for Hoosiers to go.
- Senate Bill 4 would allow counties to access additional funds in exchange for providing enhanced services. They could also opt out. It's the Legislature's response to a system that has long delivered bottom-of-the-barrel public health metrics.

### 152. Indiana bill to support patients treated for overdoses stalls but could still pass this session ([WFYI](#))

- Advocates for House Bill 1462 say it would provide crucial support for people with substance use disorder at a point when it may be most effective: during and after an emergency room visit. There is still a chance for the measure to be included in legislation this year. Since it passed the House, the bill's language could be added to another bill during a conference committee before the end of the session.

# Media Coverage: April 20 - 26

## April 20

153. **Advocate: Indiana hospital pricing measure could cut bills by half ([WISH](#))\***
- Contains interviews with Gloria Sachdev and Brian Tabor of IHA on HB 1004 and the site-of-service language in the bill.
  - Regarding off-campus use of facility fees, Dr. Sachdev says: “Many of us have seen that, where we get two separate bills, and that’s really not fair. Those aren’t hospitals, they’re not open 24/7, and we shouldn’t be paying hospital facility fees for that.”
154. **Lawmakers endorse improvements to Indiana mental health services ([Times of Northwest Indiana](#))**
- On Thursday, the Indiana Senate voted 46-0 in favor of sending Senate Enrolled Act 1 to Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb to be signed into law. The legislation won final House approval 96-3.

## April 21

155. **Governor signs slew of bills, others incoming ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))**
- A handful of bills still outstanding, some of which are priorities for either caucus. Those measures include health care pricing bills. Lawmakers must finish by April 29 under Indiana statute.
156. **Indiana specialist doctors dismayed that noncompete ban now excludes them ([Indianapolis Star](#))**
- The House beat back Senate Bill 7 to only ban noncompete clauses for primary care physicians, leaving out all other doctors who practice specialties. The Senate is expected to agree with the House's changes, and then it can head to Gov. Eric Holcomb's desk.

# Media Coverage: April 27 - May 1

## April 27

157. **Op-Ed from Tim Benson of The Heartland Institute: Don't let big government-style price caps compromise health care in Indiana** ([Inside Indiana Business](#))
- Opinion piece against price penalties in the draft of HB 1004 that were eventually removed.

## April 28

158. **Priority health care bills divide Republicans** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
- Late session recap on SB 8 and HB 1004.
159. **Patient advocates are hopeful about bills taking aim at hospital prices and drug costs** ([WFYI](#))\*
- “Gloria Sachdev, president of the Employers Forum of Indiana, said these large nonprofit hospital systems contribute the biggest share to Indiana’s inflated health care costs. The bill would require a third party contractor to look at Indiana’s nonprofit hospital prices and compare them to 285 percent of Medicare, a new benchmark that state lawmakers and hospital leaders negotiated, Sachdev said.”

## May 1

160. **The big wins — and some losses — of Indiana’s 2023 legislative session** ([Indiana Capital Chronicle](#))
- “Leaders called [HB 1004] a win, saying that dozens of meetings with stakeholders convinced them more Indiana-focused data was needed, which House Bill 1004 will incentivize moving forward.”

# Media Coverage: May 2 - May 9

## May 2

- 161. **Op-Ed from Former U.S. Rep. Dan Burton: Remove roadblocks to healthcare in Indiana** ([Kokomo Tribune](#))
  - Opinion piece against price penalties in the draft of HB 1004 that were eventually removed.
- 162. **Birth control just got easier to get in Indiana; and other new law changes likely to come** ([Indianapolis Star](#))

## May 5

- 163. **Non-competes on primary care doctors will be banned. Other specialists get new potential routes out** ([Indiana Public Media](#))\*
  - “Some Republican legislators originally wanted to fully ban non-competes for any physician. That idea was supported in testimony by doctors and organizations concerned about health care costs, like the Employers Forum of Indiana. Those supporters say non-competes drive up costs by stifling competition. And, they argue, non-competes harm patients by forcing doctors to leave the community or state if they’re let go or choose to quit – exacerbating the state’s physician shortage.”

## May 9

- 164. **Op-Ed from Brian Burton of Indiana Manufacturers Association: Legislature puts health care payers first** ([NW Indiana Business](#))\*
  - “In the years to come, more data will be collected, and hospitals will be given yet another chance to provide solutions. But with the passage of HB 1004, the General Assembly has shown the willingness to put health care consumers above the interests of providers and insurers.”

# Media Coverage: May 12 - 21

## May 12

### 165. New Indiana laws aim to lower health care costs ([WXIN](#))\*

- On passage of SEA 8: “Sachdev, who serves as president and CEO of the Employers’ Forum of Indiana, advocated for the measure on behalf of businesses that provide health care coverage to their employees. Hoosiers should see a significant decline in prices for some medications, she said. ‘The rebates can vary anywhere from 5, 10% to 80, 90% per drug,’ Sachdev said.”

## May 16

### 166. Indiana lawmakers pledged to force hospitals to lower prices. The results are mixed. ([Indianapolis Star](#))\*

- “Gloria Sachdev, president and CEO of the Employers' Forum of Indiana, considers the facility fee change the best of all the progress made this session. The employer-led health care coalition has worked to bring down hospital costs in Indiana for years ever since a 2017 Rand study the group sponsored found out-patient health care costs here were ‘shockingly high.’”

## May 21

### 167. Op-Ed from Former State Health Commissioner Richard Feldman: Not a bad session for health care ([Times of Northwest Indiana](#))

- “In the years to come, more data will be collected, and hospitals will be given yet another chance to provide solutions. But with the passage of HB 1004, the General Assembly has shown the willingness to put health care consumers above the interests of providers and insurers.”