

My name is Jim Kingston and I reside in Providence. I am writing to OPPOSE House Bill 7348.

This bill would do exactly the opposite of what we should be doing. The issue as you are probably aware is called site neutrality, which are efforts to counteract the higher prices associated with hospital based or affiliated outpatient service facilities compared to free-standing facilities. Our Federal government is right now making efforts to make the payments equal at the lower cost free-standing facilities for Medicare charges.

While I do not believe in anecdotal policy making, I can illustrate the problem with personal experience. I have a chronic condition which causes me to have periodic spinal injections procedures. Here in Rhode Island I have had them done at both hospital affiliated and freestanding outpatient facilities. The prices charged range from \$1,100 (2022) to \$2700 (2025) to \$4,612 (2024) for exactly the same procedure, with the highest price from a hospital-affiliated facility which is not even on the hospital campus. This example is one of the lower cost procedures done in outpatient facilities, so one can imagine the total increased charges/ costs to RI in total and the impact it would have on residents' costs, from both future increased insurance premiums as well as their likely increased out-of-pocket expenses.

I ask that you vote against this bill and thank you for your consideration.