

HB0328_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0328 – FAVORABLE

Hospitals - Financial Assistance Policies – Revisions

TO: Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0328, Hospitals - Financial Assistance Policies – Revisions

Health care should be treated as a human right. The mission of a hospital or medical facility should be to assist in the maintenance of the health of the community they are located in. Placing administrative barriers to delivery of care based on an ability to pay contradicts this mission.

Financial assistance should be provided to all people who require it without finding ways to deny it to those of our residents most in need to care but unable to afford it. Eligibility for free and reduced-cost care should be looking for ways to include persons and not ways to eliminate anyone from consideration for that care. The cost of medical care on the overall availability of monies a household possesses should not impoverish that family or person by consuming an unreasonable amount of their financial resources. Household assets that produce income for a household or provide housing should not be part of any formula used to calculate what reduced cost or free care should be made available.

Ezekiel 34:16 “I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy.^[a] I will feed them in justice.” tells us that The Lord wants us to take care of one another as a response to what the Lord wants to happen. My Jewish faith convinces me it is a commandment for us to feed and house and clothe and take care of the poor. This bill is an ethical and moral imperative for our medical care system.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0328.