



**THE ERISA
INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**
*Shaping benefit policies
before they shape you.*

JAMES GELFAND
President

March 24, 2023

The Honorable John Kennedy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy,

On behalf of The ERISA Industry Committee (ERIC) and our large employer member companies, thank you for your leadership in introducing the *Hospital Transparency Compliance Enforcement Act* (S. 468) that would impose higher fines for hospitals that are noncompliant with the 2021 Price Transparency Regulations. We appreciate your leadership in holding hospitals accountable so patients and consumers can make informed decisions regarding their health care choices.

ERIC is a national advocacy organization exclusively representing the largest employers in the United States in their capacity as sponsors of employee benefit plans for their nationwide workforces. With member companies that are leaders in every economic sector, ERIC is the voice of large employer plan sponsors on federal, state, and local public policies impacting their ability to sponsor benefit plans.

ERIC's work on health policy is focused on driving affordable, high-value coverage for employees by promoting transparency and competition, building and improving markets to lower costs and improve quality, reforming the payment system to incentivize value, and improving flexibility for employers to innovate and design the best health coverage for their beneficiaries. ERIC member companies believe transparency is paramount to achieving health care affordability for our employees, retirees, and their workers. Without this foundation, patients are at risk of paying for costly medical services at sub-standard health care facilities.

Your legislation has the potential to improve choice and competition within the health care system by doubling the current penalties for noncompliant hospitals listed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as avoiding compliance. Importantly, this will allow consumers to make more educated health care decisions by avoiding the uncooperative facilities and choosing hospitals with listed service prices.

ERIC enthusiastically supports your legislation as we believe it will improve health care quality and make care more affordable for patients. We look forward to working with you to advance this bill through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. Gelfand".

President