

Weekly Advocacy Update, February 23rd, 2026

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LD 2196 – An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care

Summary: The bill caps hospital prices at 200 percent of Medicare rates, keeps chronic condition prior authorizations valid for one year, protects coverage recently approved under prior plans, and requires insurers to report cost and utilization data.

Implications: The bill could slow healthcare cost growth and improve coverage continuity for patients with chronic conditions. However, it will put financial pressure on hospitals, especially smaller ones, and create administrative challenges or potential limits on services.

[Upcoming Public Hearings:](#)

Thu 3/5 1:00 PM @ Cross, Room 209