

Weekly Advocacy Update, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 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: This 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 Work Session:**

**Tue 3/17 1:00 PM @ Cross, Room 209**