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Provide HSA and Uninsured Patients with a New Healthcare Tool

**H.R. 4450 creates transparency in hospital pricing without adding
new mandates for hospitals.**

January 26, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Patients with Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) might be labeled as self-pay (uninsured) patients by some hospitals. As a result, they might not receive the discount that a person with traditional insurance would receive. I recently introduced the Hospital and Ambulatory Surgery Center Price Disclosure and Litigation Act of 2005 (H.R. 4450). **H.R. 4450 encourages price transparency for uninsured patients seeking hospital care without placing mandates on hospitals.**

Under H.R. 4450, hospitals would receive protection from charge-related lawsuits in return for disclosing and agreeing to prices with uninsured patients before a medical procedure is performed. **H.R. 4450 places no mandates on hospitals – the legislation is completely voluntary.**

Hospitals that choose to accept the provisions would settle on a price with the consumer prior to the procedure. Consumers would also be provided with a comparison that would show them what they would pay if they had insurance. In addition, H.R. 4450 requires hospitals that choose to accept the lawsuit protection to report the prices of their most performed procedures to HHS. HHS would then post this data on its Web site.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Bobby Hillert. He can be reached via e-mail at Robert.Hillert@mail.house.gov or telephone at 202.225.2231.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Sessions".

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress (TX-32)