

(March 14, 2006)Lipinski's Hospital Price Reporting Bill To Be Considered at House Committee Hearing

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Congressman Lipinski To Testify At Health Subcommittee Hearing, Wednesday, March 15

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Dan Lipinski (D-IL) announced today that he will testify at a hearing of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, regarding his Hospital Price Reporting and Disclosure Act. This bill would require hospitals to provide clear, concise information about what they charge for common procedures and medications. The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, and is entitled "What's The Cost? Proposals to Provide Consumers With Better Information About Healthcare Service Costs."

Last July, Lipinski and Congressman Bob Inglis (R-SC) introduced H.R. 3139, the Hospital Price Reporting and Disclosure Act, which would require hospitals to regularly report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) the amount they charge for the twenty-five most commonly performed inpatient procedures, the twenty-five most common outpatient procedures, and the fifty most frequently administered medications. HHS would then post this information on the Internet for easy access. Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL), Jim DeMint (R-SC), and John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced a companion bill in the Senate, S. 1827.

"We all want more information available when making health care decisions for ourselves and our families," said Lipinski. "This is especially crucial to the 46 million uninsured Americans. While we work to get coverage for these individuals, we should give them information that will help in their health care choices. We expect to have price information for every other purchase that we make, why shouldn't we have the same when it comes to health care? I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this common-sense, bipartisan bill at the hearing."