



**DENIED**

**REAL STORIES FROM AMERICANS  
FAILED BY HOSPITALS**



Consumers  
for Quality Care



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for Quality Care

April 28, 2026

**Chairman Smith,  
Ranking Member Neal,  
Members of the Committee and Staff:**

Consumers for Quality Care is committed to ensuring that real patients and families have a voice in the ongoing health care debate. The pages that follow are real-life stories of egregious hospital practices that harm the American people. These news-documented examples illustrate how the predatory actions of hospitals are increasingly leading to financial hardship and compromised outcomes for patients across the United States.

As you prepare to question top executives from major hospital systems on their institutions' role in contributing to rising health care costs, we urge you to prioritize the patient experience. This compilation of personal stories provides relevant context and urgency to the discussion, and illustrates the increasing role played by hospitals in the health care affordability crisis in this country.

The enclosed set of articles highlight systemic issues and harmful practices that are crushing individuals and families across the country with medical debt. These examples represent only a small fraction of the daily challenges faced by patients who are having to choose between receiving care or going deeper and deeper into debt. Simply put: hospital systems are bleeding consumers dry.

We respectfully submit these stories for your consideration and use as the Committee examines hospital conduct and the broader implications for patient access, affordability, and quality of care. Should your office seek further documentation, patient testimony, or additional data, Consumers for Quality Care and our partners stand ready to assist.

Thank you for your attention to these critical patient-centered concerns.

Sincerely,

*Consumers for Quality Care*

CQC

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## Nebraska

- [Nebraska Public Media](#): Data suggests no Nebraska hospitals comply with federal price transparency rule
- [ProPublica](#): Unforgiven: For Nebraska's Poor, Get Sick and Get Sued
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- [Nevada News](#): City of Joplin sues Nevada hospital for dumping homeless patients
- [8 News Now](#): Local man billed \$80,000 for lengthy COVID hospital stay

- [Nevada Current](#): Nevadans with medical debt hit with murky collection practices

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- [syracuse.com](#): How NY state, Upstate Medical haul thousands of sick and poor into court for little gain
- [New York Focus](#): Despite State Measures, New Yorkers Fear Health Care Over Medical Debt Lawsuits
- [Times Union](#): Opinion: Nonprofit hospitals must live up to their end of the bargain
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- [The Morning Call](#): Opinion: Requiring reasonable hospital prices needed to lower health care costs
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- [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#): Commentary: When it comes to profits, nonprofit hospitals are anything but charitable
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- [Axios](#): At hospital nonprofits, lawsuits frequently target former patients

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- [Healthcare Dive](#): PeaceHealth will pay up to \$13.4M to settle charity care probe
- [Healthcare Dive](#): Providence erases or refunds \$158M in medical bills
- [The New York Times](#): Rural Hospitals Are Shuttering Their Maternity Units
- [The New York Times](#): They Were Entitled to Free Care. Hospitals Hounded Them to Pay.

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- [MLK50](#): One thing the pandemic hasn't stopped: Hospital debt collections
- [Becker's ASC Review](#): West Virginia hospital, physicians sued over unnecessary hernia repairs during bariatric surgery

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- [Wisconsin State Journal](#): Paying more for the same procedure? It could be the facility fee
- [The Cap Times](#): Opinion | Wisconsin's nonprofit hospitals prioritize profits over patients
- [Wisconsin Public Radio](#): Report: Health care costs rising faster than wages in Wisconsin
- [Up North News](#): Wisconsin's nonprofit hospitals prioritize money over charitable care, critics say



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