Missouri

Missouri was active in recent legislative sessions and introduced various bills aimed at lowering healthcare costs. In 2019, the state joined many others in attempting to pass a work requirement for Medicaid beneficiaries, though these bills did not pass both chambers.

During the 2018 legislative session, Governor Eric Greitens signed SB 982 which protects emergency room patients from facing surprise medical bills. HB 1617 expanded access to telehealth services for Medicaid enrollees and clarified the Medicaid payment policy for telehealth services. The bill specifies that the Medicaid program will reimburse providers for telehealth services if the providers can ensure that the services meet the same standard of care as those provided in person. Additionally, SB 826 modifies certain healthcare provisions, including allowing pharmacists to prescribe generically equivalent drugs and inform consumers of lower costs.

In the 2017 legislative session, Missouri introduced, but did not pass legislation that requires greater price transparency. In addition, Missouri has collected inpatient and outpatient charge and utilization data since 1993, although there is no consumer website available to facilitate comparisons between providers and facilities.