

purposes of the charge in question or the services that are being provided.

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, if you get a hospital bill for 50,000 dollars for trauma care for, say, five days...

SENATOR HALL: Right.

SENATOR MATZKE: ..that's broken down, it's computerized by the services rendered...

SENATOR HALL: Correct.

SENATOR MATZKE: ..and those are keyed in and fairly standard, you can go to other hospitals and check to see if they're in line and if they're out of line then you have a basis to contest a claim.

SENATOR HALL: What about...

SENATOR MATZKE: If you find they're in line then you pay it.

SENATOR HALL: Well, what about the example of the MRI that you gave that you spoke from personal experience on, the 1,300 dollar charge? And I can't tell you but I would guess that in my area of the state it might be a higher charge than that. What...

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, actually my experience as a lawyer in representing plaintiffs who have been injured, I found that the standard MRI charge was about in the area of 900 to 950 dollars, so when I get a bill myself for 1,300 dollars I thought this is above the usual and customary. I paid it nevertheless.

SENATOR HALL: Right.

SENATOR MATZKE: Was not contested.

SENATOR HALL: And I'm... I'm not saying that you're a deadbeat by any stretch of the imagination, Senator Matzke. What I'm trying to get at is you said in your explanation here that when you look, and the example that you give is that you look at other hospitals for purposes of their charges, but as Senator Wesely stated the way this reads it is specific to that institution and to that doctor, so it'd be the customary charges