

## Health Care on the Hot Seat – Again

**H**ow to control health care costs? If I recall correctly, one of the first editions of *BizVoice*® (in 1998) posed this question. Elusive answers have been sought many times since – not only in this publication, of course, but from all involved in the health care field, industry consultants, policymakers and many others.



One group not consumed (at least to the level required) by the solution to rising expenses has been consumers. Why? Because they have been insulated from many of the direct impacts. The long-talked-about “consumer-driven system” is still missing in action, according to some of the authorities interviewed in our lead story in this issue on Indiana’s hospital landscape. The fervent hope is that will change. It must if true progress is going to be made.

In addition, providers of all types, insurers, third party administrators and the government in some cases have operated in a financial system that has been based on “volume, not value” of care. That is set to change under the Affordable Care Act, with wellness and prevention scheduled to take precedence over compensation for more patients and more tests. With reform resulting in an influx of additional patients, most at lower reimbursement levels, hospital leaders say they have to significantly reduce internal costs as part of the new model of doing business.

The growing size of hospital systems is expected to continue. I think you will enjoy the insights of the leaders of several of those major players, as well as the thoughts of those guiding independent facilities in Auburn, Richmond and Vincennes.

Of the many interesting comments within the story, all should be able to agree with this one: “Health care cannot occupy 18% of the gross domestic product.”

We’re confident you will also enjoy additional health care articles, stories tied to goals within the Attractive Business Climate driver of *Indiana Vision 2025* and features on financial industry challenges and opportunities.

Thank you, as always, for reading *BizVoice*® and for your continued support of the Indiana Chamber.

Kevin M. Brinegar  
President and CEO

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Cultivate a world-class environment which provides economic opportunity and prosperity for the people of Indiana and their enterprises.



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