



November 28, 2018

The Honorable Thomas Brinkman, Chair
House Insurance Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Brinkman,

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP), thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on Senate Bill 227, legislation that requires health plans to release certain claim information to group plan policyholders.

The Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP) is the state's leading trade association representing the health insurance industry. OAHP's member plans provide health benefits to more than 9 million Ohioans through employer-sponsored coverage, the individual insurance market, and public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Federal Insurance Marketplace. Our members offer a broad range of health insurance products to Ohioans in the commercial marketplace and are committed partners in public programs.

Since January, OAHP has been working diligently with the Ohio Association Health Underwriters (OAHU) to ensure that employees HIPAA protected claims data is protected. OAHP worked in collaboration with OAHU to develop amended language that provides employers the information they need to shop for more affordable health insurance while ensuring the privacy of employees' health information.

We appreciate the efforts of OAHU and the bill's sponsor to address our concerns and *we encourage the Committee to accept this amendment*, which will help ensure that consumers protected health information is shared in compliance with HIPPA.

With this information, we believe Ohio is well positioned to advance additional transparency policy initiatives including provider and drug price transparency that will further support employers in their quest to secure affordable health care coverage. We look forward to working with Ohio's employers to develop policy measures that will address the underlying issue presented here – the affordability of health care costs for Ohioans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 227.

Sincerely,

Miranda Creviston Motter

President and CEO
Ohio Association of Health Plans