



FINANCE – HEALTH AND
MEDICAID SUBCOMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 5/16/19

Name: Mehron Elyaderani, MD.

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Organization Representing: The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland
& Northern Ohio (AMNOF)

Testifying on Bill Number: SBH B166

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: Written testimony only
for hearing on 5/16/19

Please include as written testimony
for 5/16/19 committee
hearing.

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website

Thank you



To: Ohio Senate Finance – Health and Medicaid Subcommittee

From: Mehrun Elyaderani, MD, President, the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO)

Date: May 15, 2019

Re: Sub-HB 166, Main Operating Budget FY 2020-FY 2021

On behalf of the more than 5,000 physician, resident and medical student members of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), I am writing to express our concerns and opinions about several health-care related policy initiatives that were either added and/or removed from the substitute version of HB 166.

Provisions have been added to the budget bill intended to address the issue of “surprise bills” and out-of-network reimbursement. Although the AMCNO completely agrees that this is an issue that needs to be addressed, and we are committed to working to find a solution to this issue, we cannot support the language contained in the bill. The AMCNO believes that this issue should be dealt with in a manner that protects patients and is also fair to providers and insurers. The issue is very complex and we ask that this language be removed from the bill so that there can be full debate and discussion on this issue through the legislative process with input from physicians and other interested parties.

In addition, the AMCNO has been dedicated to addressing the issue of price transparency in the healthcare industry for several years now. We supported legislation in the last General Assembly to address this issue and currently we are supporting legislation pending in the state Senate, SB 97. Again, this is also an issue that should receive full debate in the legislature rather than as a part of the state budget.

Finally, we want to express our extreme disappointment that language we strongly supported regarding coverage for telemedicine services was removed from the bill. Ohio is currently behind 35 other states that have passed laws providing coverage for telemedicine services. Telemedicine is a key innovation in health care delivery, and it is being used in initiatives to improve access to care, to facilitate coordination and quality, and to reduce the rate of growth in healthcare spending.

It is extremely disheartening that opponents of this provision continue to insist that telemedicine will increase healthcare costs. In reality, the usage of telemedicine will save money, greatly improve access to quality of care, strengthen the patient-physician relationship and improve access for patients with chronic conditions who may have limited access to care. We ask that the language regarding coverage for telemedicine services be put back into the budget bill and bring Ohio in line with the majority of states around the country that are already benefiting from the use of telemedicine.

As president of the AMCNO, I appreciate your attention to these issues and the opportunity to comment on the budget proposal.

The Voice of Physicians in Northern Ohio