



**Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
September 18, 2019**

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written, proponent testimony for Ohio Senate Bill 97.

At UC Health, putting patients and families first is part of our DNA. We do this every day through the subspecialty care that our experts provide at the bedside, the clinical research that leads to lifesaving breakthroughs, and the education of tomorrow's healthcare professionals.

We applaud Vice Chair Huffman for continuing to champion opportunities on how the entire health care industry in Ohio can introduce price transparency into our systems, and we appreciate his commitment to authoring legislation that reflects how hospitals can - and will - lead the industry on this topic. With a steadfast commitment to putting our *patients and families first*, we support the substitute bill, expected to be introduced in Committee this afternoon. Additionally, we will continue working with Vice Chair Huffman on the following:

- It is not clear whether 3727.40(B) says that the hospital must provide the estimate within at least seven days of request; or that the hospital must provide estimates only for services scheduled at least seven days in advance of the date the service is to be received.
- While hospitals can be subject to a temporary injunction or permanent injunction compelling the hospital to comply, the State is expressly prohibited from enforcing the statute with respect to the insurers. We request that this provision be removed and/or the compliance requirements be consistent between providers and insurers.

UC Health is committed to doing all we can to disclose to patients the cost they will incur when receiving services from us. We are fully compliant with all current federal and state price transparency laws, and we are prepared today to not only comply with the letter of this law, but to comply with its spirit by being even more transparent than required whenever possible.

We applaud the legislature for recognizing that it takes cooperation on the part of providers and insurers to make health care costs transparent. We appreciate that the legislature understands that the more providers learn from insurers about their patients' benefits – copayments, deductibles, co-insurance, narrow networks, tiered benefit design, and so on – the better able we are to educate patients about their out-of-pocket costs. This is part of our longstanding commitment to protecting patients' access to care while avoiding undue financial harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on Senate Bill 97.

Sincerely,

Candace Sabers
Vice President of Government Relations
UC Health