



To: Members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services, & Medicaid Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director, Ohio State Medical Association
Joe Rosato, Director, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: September 18, 2019

Re: Substitute SB 97

On behalf of the nearly 16,000 physician, resident, and medical student members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), we write in support of substitute Senate Bill 97, legislation which seeks to provide health care price transparency to Ohio consumers.

The OSMA has been working collaboratively with the legislature and other interested parties on the complex issue of medical price transparency for several years now. Physicians and providers across the health care spectrum support efforts to make health care pricing more transparent for patients. In an era of increasing consumerism, more and more patients are asking for estimates, and providers are responding to those requests.

As our organization has previously stressed, for a medical price transparency proposal to be successful, it must set up a system of providing meaningful information to patients which allows them to assess the value of health care services. As providers alone do not have all of the information necessary to provide a patient a meaningful estimate for the cost of a health care service, providers and payers need to work collaboratively. The process of providing this information to patients must also be administratively manageable and workable for Ohio's physicians and providers to avoid any negative impact on health care delivery.

We applaud the efforts of Senator Huffman as substitute SB 97 gives patients valuable tools with which to request pricing information for scheduled hospital procedures 7 days in advance. This legislation would help Ohioans to make more informed decisions regarding their care and allow them to better anticipate costs associated with the care they receive.

Thank you for your attention to our comments in regard to substitute SB 97. We look forward to the opportunity to continue this dialogue toward an effective solution for Ohio. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.