



OHIO PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DBA
OHIO FOOT AND ANKLE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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JIMELLE RUMBERG, PHD, CAE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

FROM: Jimelle Rumberg, Ph.D., Executive Director
The Ohio Foot & Ankle Medical Association

DATE: September 30, 2019

RE: Support of Substitute Senate Bill 97

On behalf of the podiatric physicians and surgeons that make up the Ohio Foot & Ankle Medical Association (OHFAMA), I would like to convey our association's support for Substitute Senate Bill 97, sponsored by Senator Steve Huffman.

Ohio's podiatric physicians and surgeons have long supported a cohesive and transparent relationship between our physicians and their patients, and that collaborative relationship includes the transparency of the costs of health care. Our association has long supported working with all members of the Ohio General Assembly on this complex issue and we believe the substitute version of Senator Huffman's legislation is an important step in better physician-patient relationship in the area of price transparency.

There are many versions and definitions of "price transparency" in today's health care marketplace but in order to provide true, impactful information to our patients concerning actual health care costs, a "common sense" system must be set up that reflects the "real world" of what provider's face today in the healthcare landscape. In speaking with our podiatric physicians and surgeons on this important topic, OHFAMA has found that our physician members are very willing to provide crucial pricing information to their patients. However, our physicians also overwhelmingly note that they most often do not possess the data and information needed to provide a "real time" estimate to their patients as others have demanded. Quite frankly, any administrative system that is established that requires the provision of pricing transparency to patients must also contain a strong commitment by insurers and other payers to work with the provider community on the provision of crucially needed data in this area.

While the issue of price transparency to patients will continue to be discussed, our association strongly believes Senator Huffman's Substitute SB 97 is a very positive first step in strengthening the physician-provider relationship when it comes to informing patients about the true cost of their health care. OHFAMA applauds the Senator's continued dedicated efforts in this area and pledges to continue to work with him and all members of the General Assembly on this crucial issue.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or OHFAMA's Legislative Agents, Dan Leite and Courtney Saunders of Capitol Advocates, if you have any further questions regarding Substitute Senate Bill 97. Thank you for allowing our association to express our support of this important legislation.