



Columbus Medical
Association

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Date: November 1, 2019

To: Members of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee

From: Robert Falcone, MD on behalf of the Columbus Medical Association Public Policy Committee

Re: Support for SB 198

The Public Policy Committee of the Columbus Medical Association (CMA) is writing in support of SB 198.

This legislation is a positive step forward to address an unfortunate and challenging circumstance for patients in today's healthcare system – the financial aftermath resulting from a situation of unanticipated care that is outside a patient's insurance network.

SB 198 would prohibit balance billing of patients in these situations when they receive unanticipated out-of-network care. Alternatively, the bill then creates an independent dispute resolution process for these situations in order to settle any compensation disputes between the physician and the insurance company.

It is our understanding that there may be some needed implementation details to be addressed; however, the changes to Ohio law in SB 198 are overall a fair solution to protect patients by keeping them out of a balanced billing situation and out of the middle of any billing disputes between healthcare providers and insurers.

On behalf of the Columbus Medical Association Pubic Policy Committee, we ask your favorable consideration of SB 198.



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