



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Interested Party – HB 49

June 12, 2024

Chairman Lang, Vice Chair Wilkin, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on House Bill 49, which seeks to codify the federal price transparency law into Ohio state statute.

As you may know, the Ohio Chamber has served as the state's leading business advocate, and we represent over 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness, and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

I would like to commend the Senate for their prudence in aligning HB 49 with existing federal regulations. This alignment is crucial as it ensures that Ohio businesses are not subjected to an additional layer of bureaucratic red tape, which could inadvertently stifle their operations and add administrative costs.

As outlined in the Ohio Chamber's [*Blueprint for Ohio's Economic Future*](#), Ohio ranks among the bottom in terms of regulatory landscape and the burden on businesses. Ohio must pursue policy reforms that create a more stable and predictable climate that eases regulatory and compliance burdens for businesses. And by mirroring the federal price transparency law, Ohio is transforming Ohio's healthcare delivery system, to help prevent the development of early, chronic health conditions, and improve health outcomes.

The federal price transparency law requires hospitals to provide clear, accessible pricing information online about the items and services they provide. This law is instrumental in fostering a competitive healthcare market, empowering consumers with the information necessary to make informed decisions and ultimately driving down healthcare costs.

House Bill 49's initiative to incorporate these federal requirements into state law is a commendable step. By mirroring federal regulations, the bill achieves consistency and clarity by providing a uniform standard for healthcare providers to follow. Additionally, by not introducing additional state-specific requirements, the bill minimizes administrative costs and redundant regulations. Ultimately, this legislation will ensure consistent and transparent pricing for businesses and consumers, which will lead to a competitive healthcare market and improve health outcomes.

It is important to note that language was added to prohibit hospital systems from charging a facility fee for treatment at hospital-acquired outpatient facilities. We applaud the early dialogue on this issue and want to pursue any efforts to reduce healthcare costs for consumers. These facility fees can be unexpected and substantial to patients, resulting in additional financial strain. The Ohio Chamber wants to continue conversations on this topic, to benefit the overall economic health of individuals and businesses alike.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 49.