



September 16, 2025

The Honorable Jean Schmidt, Chair
Ohio House Health Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Oppose HB 257

Dear Chairman Schmidt and members of the House Health Committee:

On behalf of ACA International, the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals (ACA), I respectfully write in opposition to House Bill 257. The legislation would take an overly broad approach to limiting medical billing and collection practices that if enacted would lead to unintended negative consequences for Ohio consumers and providers of medical services in the state.

ACA International was founded in 1939 and is the nation's largest trade association for the accounts receivable industry, representing approximately 1,500 members across the country, including credit grantors, third-party collection agencies, asset buyers, attorneys, and vendor affiliates in an industry that employs more than 150,000 employees worldwide. ACA members include the smallest of businesses that operate within a limited geographic range of a single state like Ohio, and the largest of publicly held, multinational corporations that operate in every state.

House Bill 257 has a noble goal of protecting Ohio consumers from excessive and unexpected medical debt, but the legislation goes too far in implementing a one-size-fits-all approach to a very complex and wide-ranging medical market without considering any needs based or means testing provisions. The legislation would prohibit garnishments on medical debt, prohibit medical debt credit reporting and would place a cap on medical debt interest at 3%.

The economic consequences of unpaid medical bills impact the market for physicians, available services, whether services can be provided before payment in full, the speed of insurance payments, and the ability of small non-corporate providers to stay in business.

Removing the ability of medical providers to recover debts from patients may seem beneficial at first glance, but it could lead to serious challenges for patients, healthcare providers, and the overall healthcare system. These challenges would be amplified for smaller hospitals, particularly in rural areas, which are often already financially strapped.

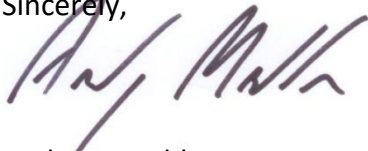
Preventing hospitals and other organizations from recovering unpaid debts jeopardizes their ability to sustainably operate. This could lead to job losses, cuts in services, and increased costs passed on to taxpayers. If any medical facilities are forced to close or limit services, Ohio consumers will be forced to travel farther to receive care and endure longer waiting times.

Federal regulations already mandate robust charity care programs, and federal laws like the No Surprises Act already address healthcare cost transparency and consumer protections. Suppressing medical debts from credit reports will have an impact on all Ohioans seeking credit in the future and on all businesses that extend credit far outside the scope of healthcare. Consumer reports are meant to be comprehensive documents that inform consumers and creditors of consumer obligations. This legislation would diminish the effectiveness of credit reports and hinder the ability of all creditors to accurately assess a person's ability to repay other debts or take on new debt.

Rather than eliminating the right to recover medical debt, lawmakers should consider balanced reforms that ensure fair billing practices while protecting the financial stability of healthcare providers and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to oppose HB257.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew Madden", written in a cursive style.

Andrew Madden
VP Government & State Affairs