



Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee
December 1, 2020
House Bill 388 – Testimony of Dr. Ryan Squier

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chairman Hottinger, Ranking Member Craig and members of the Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee, Ohio ACEP would like to thank this committee for their diligent consideration of the important topic of surprise medical bills. This is an issue that Ohio ACEP and many other groups have been working on for years now. Members of this committee previously heard testimony from Ohio ACEP in support of Senate Bill 198. We still support that legislation. However, we are also able to now endorse the provisions as presented in House Bill 388.

First and foremost, this bill protects patients from getting a surprise medical bill when they unexpectedly are seen by a physician out of their insurance network. We know this was a priority for all parties involved, but it was also important to strike a balance and not tip the scales to favor insurance companies and drive physicians out of practice. As you know Ohio’s emergency physicians can not choose their patients or turn any patient away because of federal law. So, regardless of a patient’s insurance carrier or plan, they will receive needed care in the emergency department. That is why it is so important for Ohio ACEP that legislation to prohibit surprise medical bills, also protects emergency physician’s ability to fairly negotiate with insurance plans.

Patients are most protected when the healthcare safety net is strong. The provisions of HB 388 before you today have come a long way in addressing the concerns we have raised during the House deliberation and during the legislature’s budget process. Clearly, our message was received, and we appreciate the changes in the version ultimately passed by the House.

We are hopeful the legislature can exact this legislation to protect Ohio patients. Thank you Chairman Hackett and members of the Senate for your hard work and commitment to this issue.

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