

In 2019, a President Trump Executive Order (EO) directed the Secretaries of Health & Human Services, Labor and Treasury to implement provisions of the Obama Administration's Affordable Care Act (ACA) creating consumer facing price transparency in facility-based care. In July of 2021, President Biden signed an EO affirming the intent to do the same. The EOs directed the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop detailed rules requiring hospitals to post standard charges prominently on publicly available websites.

Hospitals must post the charges in two formats:

1. Machine readable file (a file that can be read by a computer system)
2. Consumer-friendly display of shoppable services

If a hospital fails to comply with Federal healthcare price transparency requirements, shouldn't the bare minimum asks be:

- Prohibit hospitals from referring, assigning or selling medical debt to debt collectors
- Prohibits hospitals from accessing the state court system to obtain judgement for an outstanding medical debt
- Prohibits hospitals from filing negative credit reports against patients for outstanding medical bills
- Awards damages to patients for a hospital violation of the Colorado Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (CFDCPA) in an amount not less than the billed charges, plus attorney's fees if a patient brings a claim.

Neville's other two buckets here:

This bill Does Not:

- Does not prohibit hospitals from billing patients or health insurers for patient services.
- Does not require a hospital to refund payments if a patient pays a bill and later discovers hospital was not in compliance.
- The bill does not define new price transparency standards – hospitals must simply follow Federal law, and the bill provides patients with the power of the courts to enforce their rights.

☒ Hospitals are already compelled by Federal law to make meaningful prices available to consumers. Ohioans need the benefits of the law: consumer protection and increased competition.