



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Senator Monnes-Anderson, Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care  
Senator Kruse, Co-chair, Senate Committee on Health Care  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Bryan Boehringer, OMA Government Relations  
Courtnei Dresser, OMA Government Relations

Date: March 25, 2015

Re: Opposition to SB 891

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The OMA supports efforts to create more transparency in health care pricing for patients and believes this is an admirable goal. Unfortunately, the mechanics of SB 891 will not accomplish this goal. Requiring health care facilities to provide information about their fee schedules, schedules over which they have very little control due to insurer-driven formulas that set the allowed amounts, will not drive competition nor empower patients to take personal responsibility for their own health care costs.

Based on our member's feedback, publicly posting the fee schedule used by the facility for the 100 most frequent services performed by the facility would not be as valuable to patients as may have been intended by the bill. Simply listing the billed charges and the amount paid [by the insurer] lends limited transparency for the patient as to the actual cost of their care. This list would be most beneficial to a patient without insurance or those who are out-of-network for their insurance. This is a limited subset of patients in today's health care market; for those with insurance, knowing what their insurance will allow for a health care service does not help them understand their cost-sharing responsibilities related to deductible or copayment amounts. Facilities already work with patients on an individual basis to determine any out of pocket costs to the patient and do provide patients, upon request, an itemized bill with all billed amounts.

The OMA supports patient awareness about the cost of their health care, however, we cannot support SB 891 as it is an administratively burdensome bill with low patient impact. The OMA believes there are other ways to achieve health care cost transparency, including the publication of existing All Payer, All Claims (APAC) database for consumers (as included in SB 900).