



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: Support for SB 900

The OMA supports SB 900 to help create tools to make hospital health care prices transparently available to patients. SB 900 directs the state to revise and re-launch its health care pricing website for hospitals. The state has previously had this type of website and could effectively re-launch the website with the existing database of prices paid for the most common health care procedures in every Oregon hospital.

This bill does not overburden provider offices, health care facilities or insurers as the website would utilize and display existing data from the state's All Payer, All Claims database (APAC). The OMA supported the creation of the APAC database and currently represents physician's interests on the APAC Technical Advisory Group. Making cost data publicly available would give consumers and health care providers a valuable tool for health care decision-making and has the potential to positively impact other health care initiatives, such as Choosing Wisely®, which encourages patients and physicians to talk about their care, including the cost of their care.

The OMA encourages the committee to support SB 900 as a bill that is administratively simple for providers, hospitals and insurers and achieves the goal of increased cost transparency for patients.

The Oregon Medical Association is an organization of over 8,100 physicians, physician assistants, and medical students organized to serve and support physicians in their efforts to improve the health of Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.