

April 5, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: *House Bill 2339 – Surprise billing*

Chair Greenlick and House Health Care Committee Members:

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (Association) supports house bill 2339 and appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 2339. The issue of surprise and/or balance billing has been in the national and local news over the past year and I think we all have a personal story where we or someone we know has received a balance or surprise bill. We appreciate the work of the committee, the Department of Consumer and Business Services and all the stakeholders who have been working on this issue and this legislation.

Hospitals recognize that they have a significant role to play in helping to educate their patients about out-of-pocket financial responsibilities for the health care services they receive in a hospital. Oregon hospitals continue to strive in educating their patients; but, hospitals can only do so much. A patient at an in-network facility may still be in a situation where they receive care, unknowingly, from an out-of-network provider.

The Association feels strongly that patients should be held harmless at in-network facilities, out-of-network facilities during emergency situations, and at in-network urgent or immediate care facilities.

OAHHS supports the proposed amendments direction and would support a change proposed in the -5 amendment, replacing 'participating' with 'in-network' be adopted as we believe it provides a clearer definition. As this policy moves forward, OAHHS wants to work with DCBS on reporting and analysis of its effect.

The Association wants to thank the committee for their time and consideration of this legislation.

Thank you,
Sean Kolmer
Senior Vice President of Policy & Strategy
Oregon Association of Hospital and Health Systems