



Help ensure our public employees get the most from their  
health care dollars

Please support House Bill 3418

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 3418 and its -5 amendment. As a physician-led organization at the forefront of value based payment methodologies, we support this bill. It will provide for an apple-to-apples comparison between three main health care delivery systems: Medicaid, Medicare, and Oregon's insurance programs (PEBB and OEBC).

As one of four PEBB health insurance plans, we believe that leveling the playing field gives everybody the ability to measure cost in a uniform pricing system as well as provide the necessary transparency. The current system does not allow for much if any transparency.

If we want patients to take ownership of and participate in the decision-making process – which is a must in order to tame the ever-increasing health care cost curve – we need to have comparable values. A methodology based on Medicare allowable rates provides just that.

Envision a referenced based pricing model. For example, a PEBB employee needs an MRI. She accesses an online application that calculates to the penny what MRIs cost in her area in freestanding and outpatient hospital imaging centers. If she were responsible for 10% of the MRI's cost, it would be in her interest to find and utilize the most reasonably priced imaging center – assuming quality was equal or better. The current system does not allow for this kind of comparison-shopping; thus, a universal and uniform pricing system is essential.

If the State would truly be serious about reducing its health care expenditures, without cost shifting to its employees, House Bill 3418 would be a worthy start.

**Vote yes on House Bill 3418**