

Providence Health & Services
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March 25, 2015

The Honorable Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Senate Bill 900, Hospital price transparency

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson and members of the committee:

On behalf of Providence Health & Services, thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for Senate Bill 900. Providence is committed to helping our patients make thoughtful and informed decisions about their care.

Hospitals, providers and health plans across Oregon have made quality and price transparency a priority. We are pursuing a three prong initiative to ensure patients have pricing details in advance of a visit to the hospital. These initiatives include: Tools for hospitals to provide good-faith estimates to self-pay and out-of-network patients; a pledge to work with insurers to help insured patients understand their out-of-pocket expenses for care; and Senate Bill 900 calling for a consumer friendly online portal displaying median prices paid for the most common inpatient and outpatient procedures at hospitals.

The information made available through the adoption of Senate Bill 900 will help consumers understand the typical cost of a procedure, and compare that information across hospitals. Once equipped with this information, patients can feel more confident discussing coverage and cost-sharing specifics with their insurer or requesting a good-faith estimate from any hospital if they are paying directly.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Underriner".

Dave Underriner
Chief Executive
Providence Health & Services - Oregon